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by SAKO Toshio

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USogui ch 98

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嘘喰い
uso gui
10
迫稔雄
sako toshio presents

98 – Order of the Ant
99 – Contract For Life
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102 – The Grim Reaper Has Descended
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109 – The Truth of the Rumor

Contents

この作品はフィクションです。
実在の人物・団体・事件などには
一切関係ありません。

STORY SO FAR:

THE LABYRINTH GAME IS HELD IN THE UNDERGROUND TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT. IN REALITY, IT IS A CORRUPTED GAMBLE WHERE THE ALIBIS OF DAYS ARE BET. BAKU, WHO PLAYED THE GAME WITH INFORMATION FROM KAJI'S GAME, WON THE FIRST ROUND. HOWEVER, WITH TWO MORE ROUNDS LEFT, HIS LABYRINTH WAS SOLVED IN THE SECOND ROUND. BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY BAKU'S TRAP TO PASS THE MEMORY OF HIS CRUSHING DEFEAT AT THE "SURPASSING THE LEADER" GAME TO YUKIIDE!

CHARACTER INTRODUCTION

TOUYA MASA-TERU

YUKIIDE KAORU

KIRUMA GOICHI

KYARA

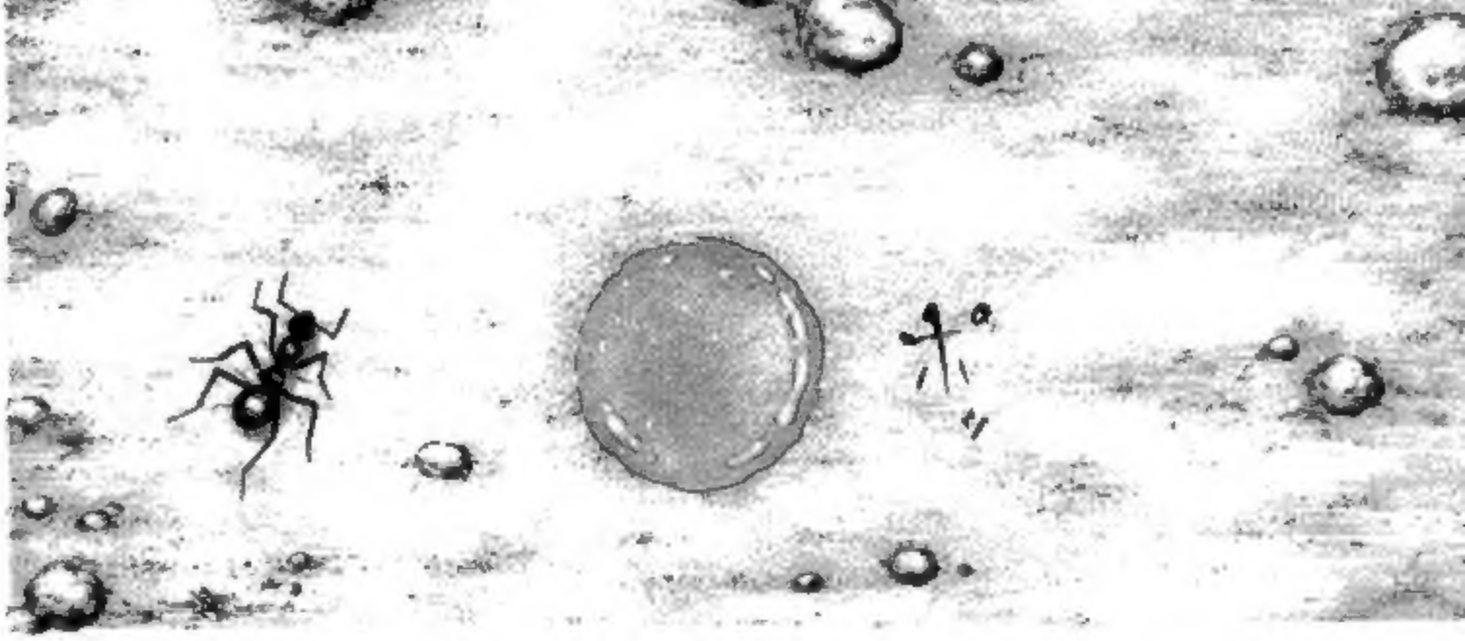
KADO-KURA YUUDAI

BILLY CRAIG

喰喰い

Chapter 98

Order of the Ant



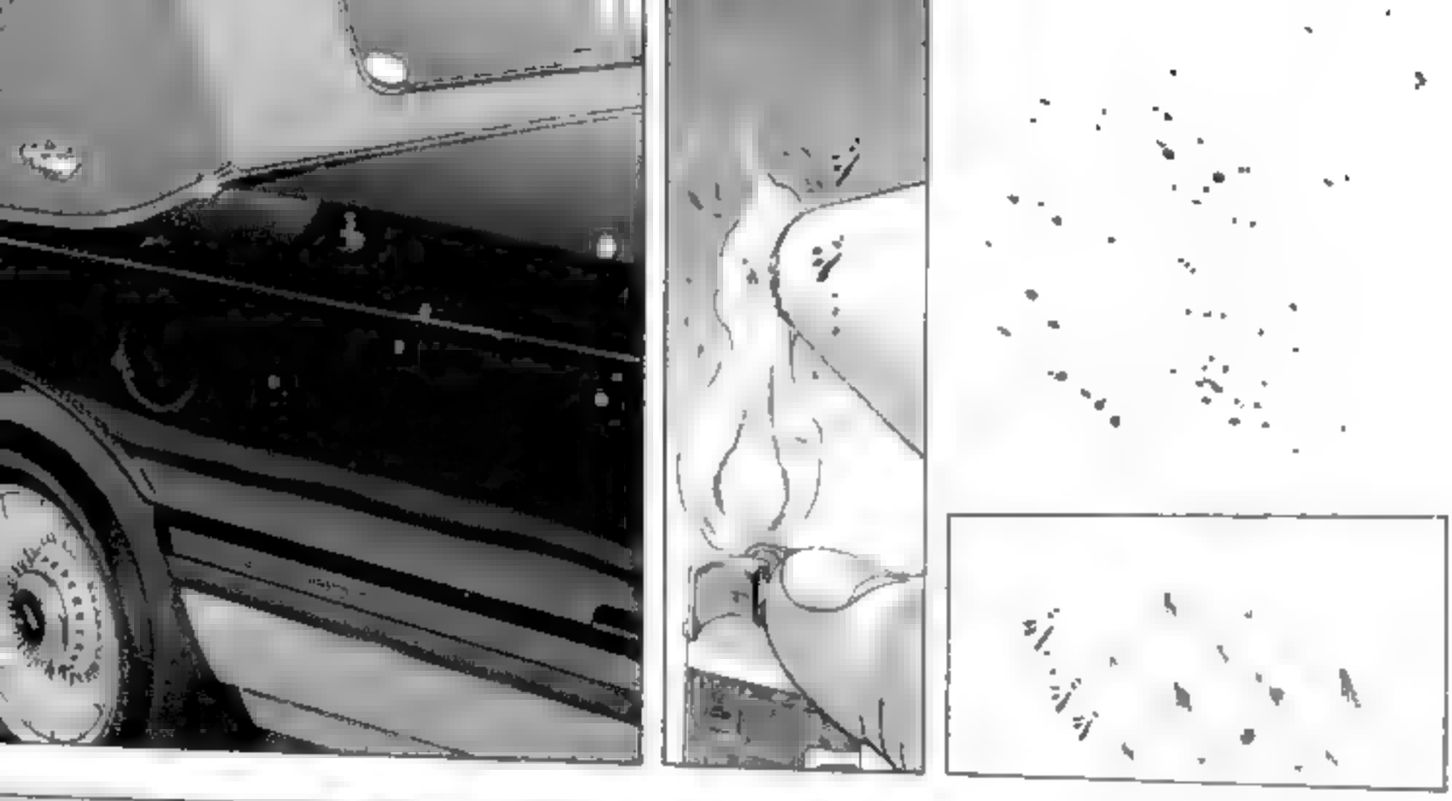
IT'S TIME TO GO.
COME, KAORU...
KAORU...
...
LET'S GO.
THERE'S STILL MOM, DAD.
WAIT, DAD.
THAT'S AN ANT.
KAORU...

THERE'S ONE ANT THAT DISRUPTS THE LINE.
FOR ORDER TO BE KEPT, IT HAS TO BE ELIMINATED...
THAT IS...

FORGET ABOUT IT.
.....
NOT YOUR MOM ANYMORE.

YOU SEE, KAORU, DAD'S JOB IS TO MAINTAIN IT.
IF ORDER IS KEPT,
YES...
IT'S ORDER.

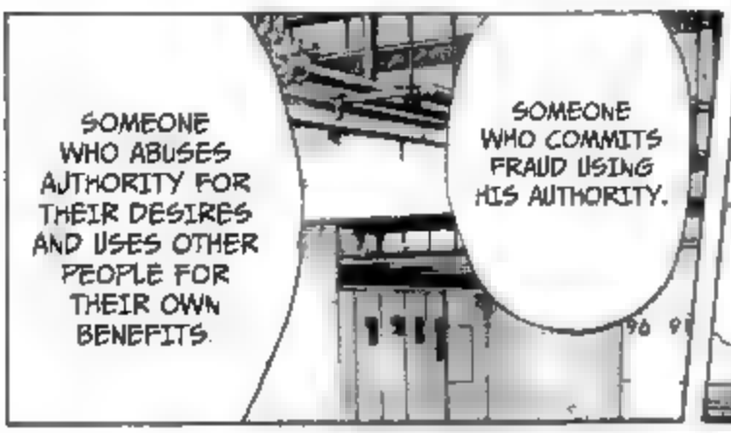
YOU'LL ALSO BE MANAGING ANTS ALONG WITH ME SOMEDAY.
ALL ACTIONS ARE FORGIVEN.
TO KEEP ORDER, ANY KIND OF SACRIFICE IS FORGIVEN.
THERE'S NO WRONG IN DOING SO. EVEN MURDER IS NOT EVIL.
ORDER TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER...
EVERYTHING.
ORDER IS IRON JUSTICE.
KAORU...
PEACE ONLY EXISTS BECAUSE OF UNWAVERING ORDER.



FOR BOTH THE FATHER AND THE SON TO BE OBSESSED WITH THIS THING CALLED ORDER.
PHEEEW
WELL,
AS SOMEONE FROM THE SAME ORGANIZATION, IT MAY BE STRANGE FOR ME TO SAY THIS ABOUT THE YOKUDE FATHER AND SON BUT.
IT SURE IS OUT OF THE ORDINARY...

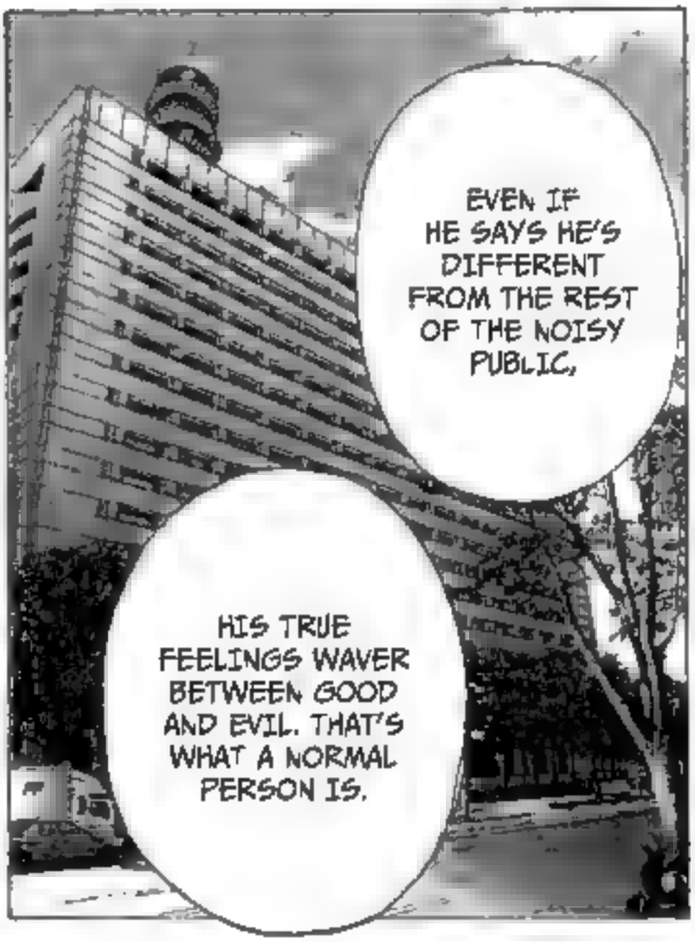
AND THE HISTORY AND SYS-TEM...
OF THE NATION'S POWER.
THEY ARE THE BY-PRODUCTS OF THE YIN AND THE YANG, THE GOOD AND THE EVIL, THE POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES,
68
0 69

I SENSED RELIGION-LIKE VILE-NESS...
IT MEANT THE SON'S LOGIC WAS ALREADY COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM A NORMAL PERSON'S.
THE YUKIIDE SON COMPLETELY INHERITED AN EXACT COPY OF HIS FATHER'S IDEALS. FROM THAT PARA-LLEL...


SOMEONE WHO ABUSES AUTHORITY FOR THEIR DESIRES AND USES OTHER PEOPLE FOR THEIR OWN BENEFITS.
SOMEONE WHO COMMITS FRAUD USING HIS AUTHORITY.

IN A WAY, IT'S SIMILAR TO THE LOGIC OF A NATION'S POWER WHICH GOES BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL..
NO WONDER IT'S DIFFERENT FROM OUR PRINCIPALS.

BUT YUKIIDE DOESN'T HAVE A SPECK OF THOSE KINDS OF FEELINGS. HE THINKS ALL HIS ACTIONS ARE LEGITIMATE FOR THE SAKE OF ORDER...
HE BLINDLY BELIEVES IN ADVANCING IN POWER.


EVEN IF HE SAYS HE'S DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF THE NOISY PUBLIC,
HIS TRUE FEELINGS WAVER BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL. THAT'S WHAT A NORMAL PERSON IS.

AND THE SCANDAL THE HIGHER-UPS TOOK THEIR TIME TO COVER UP... THE CRIME COMMITTED BY ANOTHER OFFICIAL'S WIFE.

THE FATHER ENDED UP PINNING IT ON HIS OWN WIFE... THE OFFICIAL'S FATHER BEING A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WAS A FACTOR, BUT A GUY LIKE HIM WAS GOING TO BE USED IN THE END.

AND EVEN IN TIMES LIKE THESE...

TO CLEAN THE MESS OF THE HIGHER UPS, HE HAPPILY AGREED TO THROW HIS WIFE INTO THE DARK-NESS.

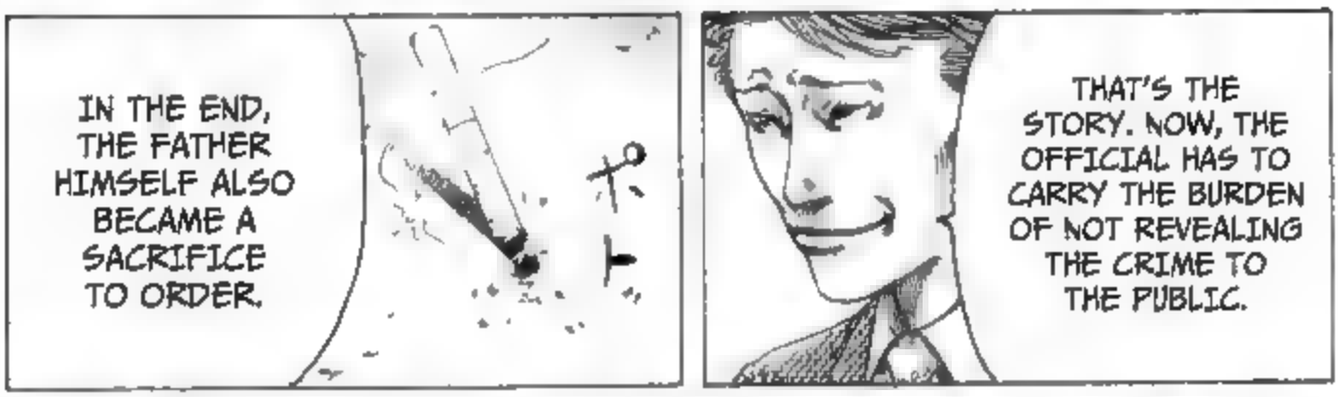
HE COVERED UP THE WHOLE STORY WITH HIS OWN HANDS

NOT FOR HIS AMBITIONS OR SO THAT HE COULD ATTAIN POWER...

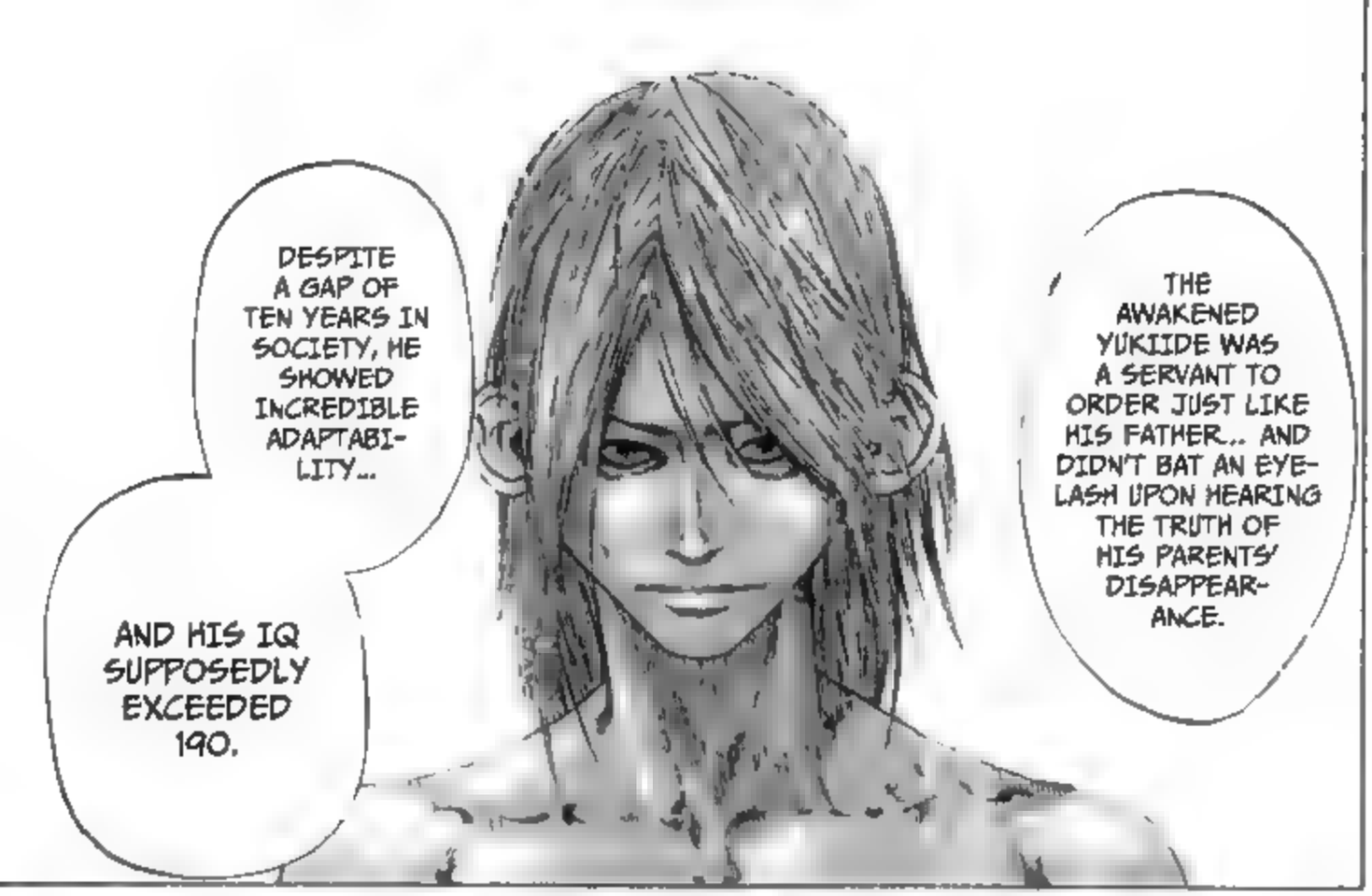
BUT HE BORE THE SINS OF SOMEONE ABOVE HIM FOR THE ***SAKE OF ORDER.***

INSANE. THERE'S NO OTHER WORD TO DESCRIBE HIM.

I CAN IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENED AFTER-WARDS...
THROW
IF HE WENT THAT FAR...


IN THE END, THE FATHER HIMSELF ALSO BECAME A SACRIFICE TO ORDER.
THAT'S THE STORY. NOW, THE OFFICIAL HAS TO CARRY THE BURDEN OF NOT REVEALING THE CRIME TO THE PUBLIC.

A HEARTLESS HIGHER-UP THOUGHT OF FURTHER MAKING USE OF YUKIIDE WHO RECOVERED AFTER TEN YEARS.
FROM HERE, IT'S ALL RUMORS, BUT...
THE SON WHO WAS ENTRUSTED WITH HIS DESIRES,
WAS BORN WITH A RARE DISEASE AND DEPARTED TO THE WORLD OF DREAMS FOR A WHILE.


DESPITE A GAP OF TEN YEARS IN SOCIETY, HE SHOWED INCREDIBLE ADAPTABILITY...
AND HIS IQ SUPPOSEDLY EXCEEDED 190.
THE AWAKENED YUKIIDE WAS A SERVANT TO ORDER JUST LIKE HIS FATHER... AND DIDN'T BAT AN EYELASH UPON HEARING THE TRUTH OF HIS PARENTS' DISAPPEARANCE.

A PERFECT WAY TO ADVANCE IN POWER WAS BORN.
THAT IS HOW THE FATHER AND SON BECAME TOOLS FOR THE POLICE FOR TWO GENERATIONS.
THIS IS HOW THE LABYRINTH GAMBLE BEGAN...
WITH ONLY A FEW PEOPLE KNOWING ABOUT IT...

IT EXISTS IN THE UNDER-GROUND TOKYO METRO-POLITAN POLICE DEPART-MENT.
A TABOO OF THIS COUNTRY.

CHAOS ITSELF... HE DISRUPTS MY ORDER.
THIS MAN IS...
AN ENEMY.

EVERYTHING WAS CAREFULLY PREPARED AND ORCHESTRATED...
FROM THE FIRST ROUND, HE MADE STRATEGIC MOVES, SO THAT I'D BE THE ONE TALKING.
I COMMEND YOUR ACTIONS AND BEHAVIOR THAT DIDN'T RAISE MY SUSPICIONS
IN ORDER TO BIND ME TO THIS ABHORRENT MEMORY,

……

BUT THE FACT THAT YOU ARE STILL HERE...
MEANS...

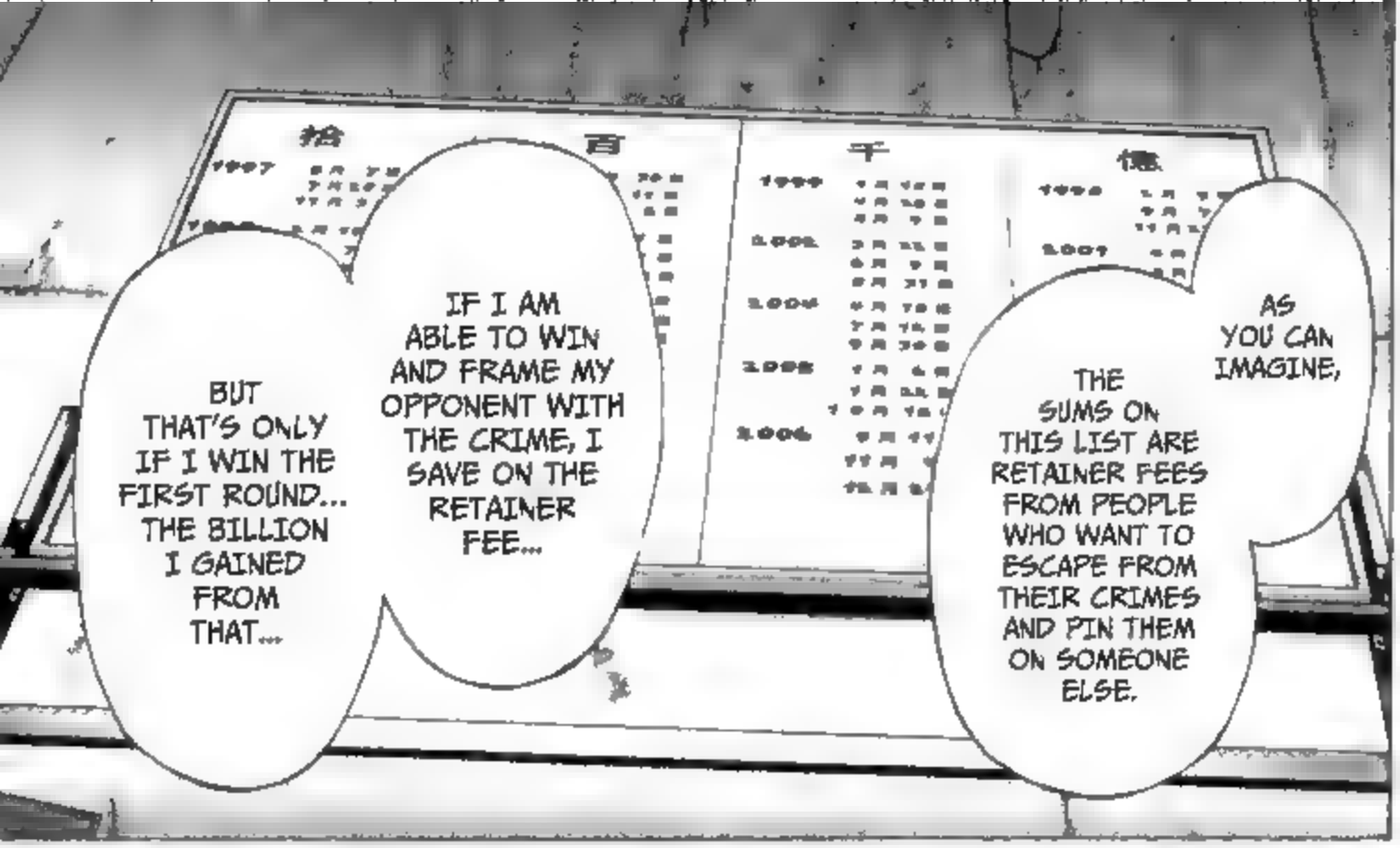
THAT YOUR LIFE IS STILL IN MY HANDS.

ALL RIGHT YOU GUYS,
LET'S CONFIRM THIS ONCE MORE.
O..
O...
FIRST, WHAT IS MY NAME?
I HAD A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS SUCKER.
HIS SKIN HAS ALSO BEEN COLLEC-TED, AND...
OOWADA BAKU.
I WAS ABLE TO STEAL HIS HAIR, AND...
CONFIRM HIS SOCIAL STATUS.
IF YOU DON'T DO IT THE WAY WE PRACTICED...
OK. NOW YOU'RE GOING TO BE DOING THIS FOR REAL.

IN THAT INSTANT,
A CALAMITY WILL FALL UPON YOU GUYS.
YOJ, YOU GUYS DID A BAD THING TO KAJI.
AND NOW YOU HAVE TO COOPERATE WITH BAKU-NII-CHAN!
GOT IT?
G-GOT IT.
.....

YOU'RE DROOL-ING.
.....
IS OBVIOUSLY RELATED WITH THE OTHER GUY WHO CAME HERE LAST TIME... MOST LIKELY,
NO.
THAT'S NOT IT...
THAT'S NOT WHAT'S HAPPENING... THIS MAN,
EVERYTHING WAS PREPARED BY HIM FROM THE BEGINNING...
I CAN'T EVEN TRUST THE REPORT FROM EARLIER...

WHAT IS THIS? THIS MAN...
ANT...
JUST A MERE ANT...
EVEN THOUGH HE'S ONLY AN ANT...
HEY, DAD...
HE'S JUST LIKE YOU...
AN ANT... RIGHT?

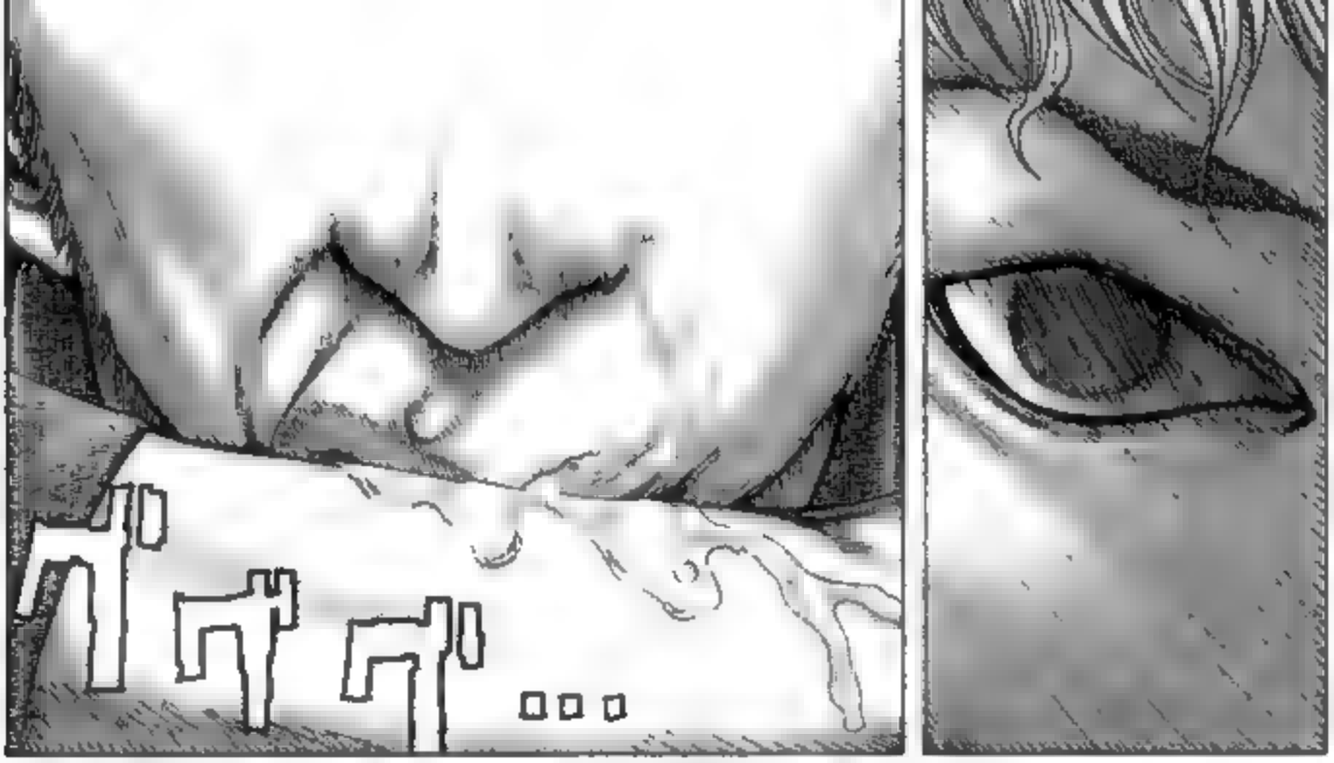

AS YOU CAN IMAGINE,
THE SUMS ON THIS LIST ARE RETAINER FEES FROM PEOPLE WHO WANT TO ESCAPE FROM THEIR CRIMES AND PIN THEM ON SOMEONE ELSE.
IF I AM ABLE TO WIN AND FRAME MY OPPONENT WITH THE CRIME, I SAVE ON THE RETAINER FEE...
BUT THAT'S ONLY IF I WIN THE FIRST ROUND... THE BILLION I GAINED FROM THAT...

I'LL BET...
ALL OF IT.
.....

AFTER THE GAME... IF HE INTENDS TO RECOVER THE MONEY AFTER HE IS RELEASED...
THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH HE BETS
I BELIEVE HE MAY BE THINKING THIS.
THE CREDIBILITY OF THAT SUM AND THE FACT THAT YUKIDE CAN WORK WITH ONE BILLION...
ARE BOTH SUSPICIOUS...
...

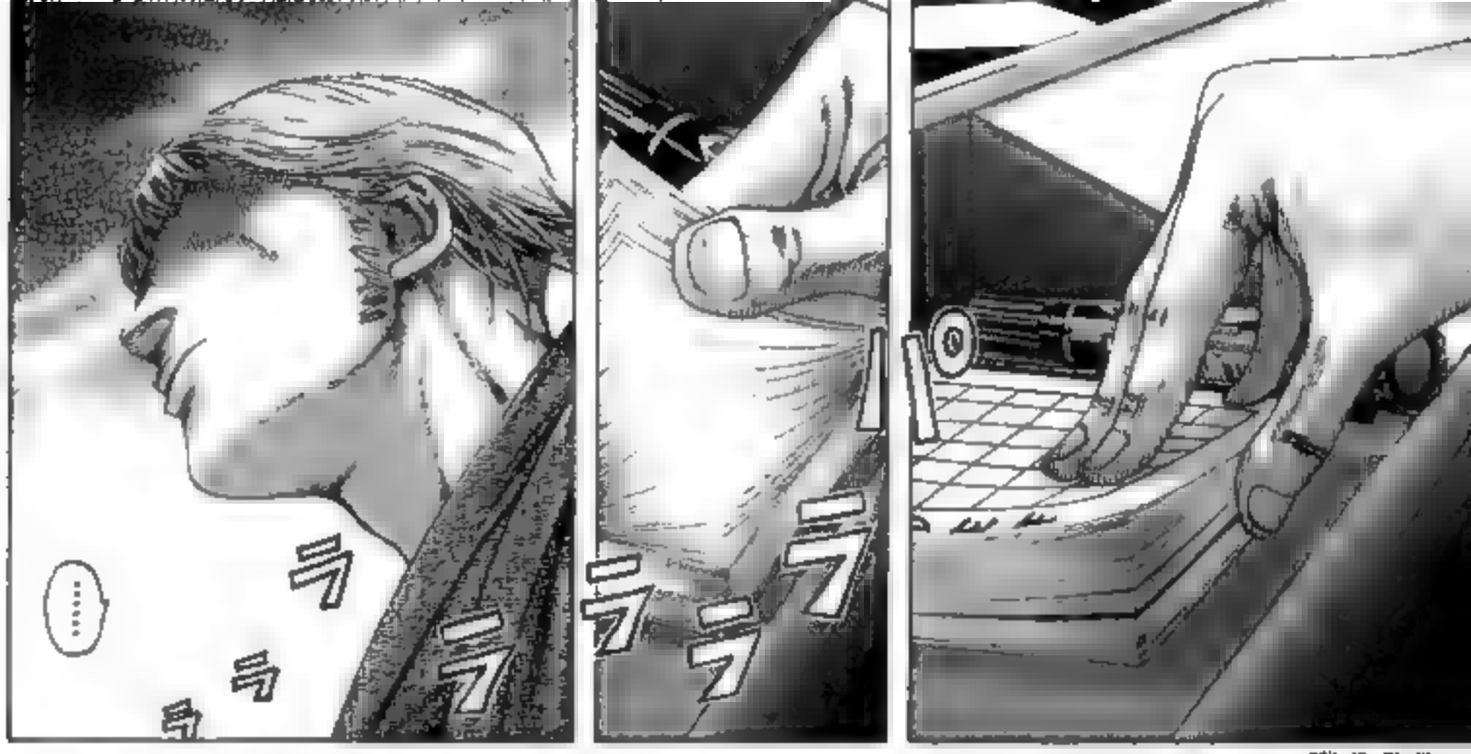
Chapter 99

Contract For Life

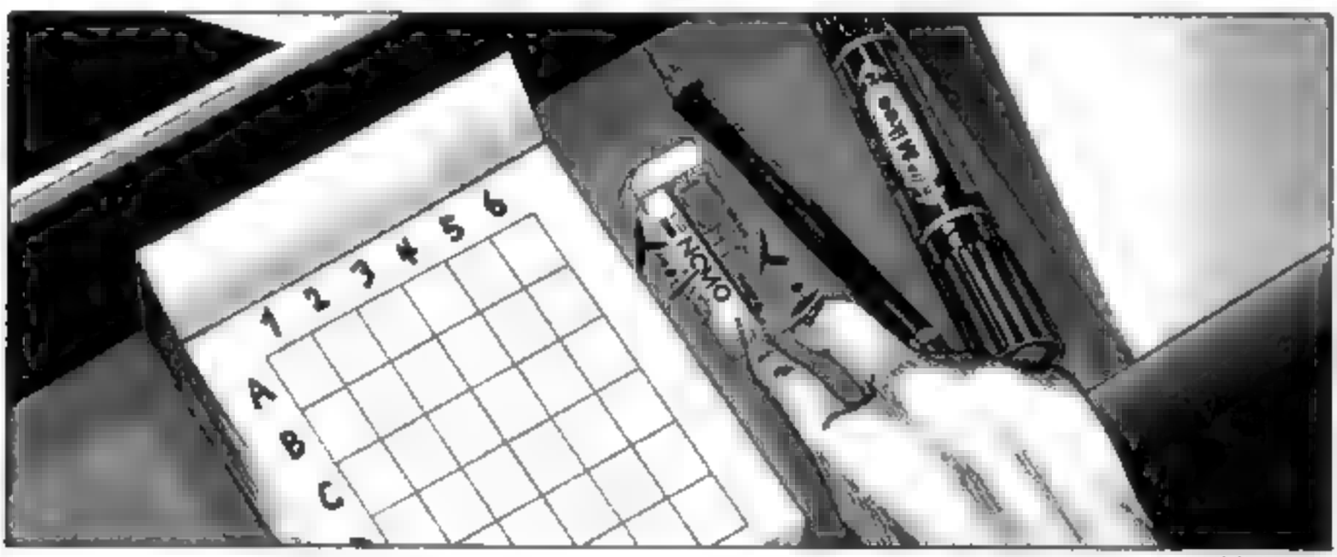


SFX: slurp slurp slurp

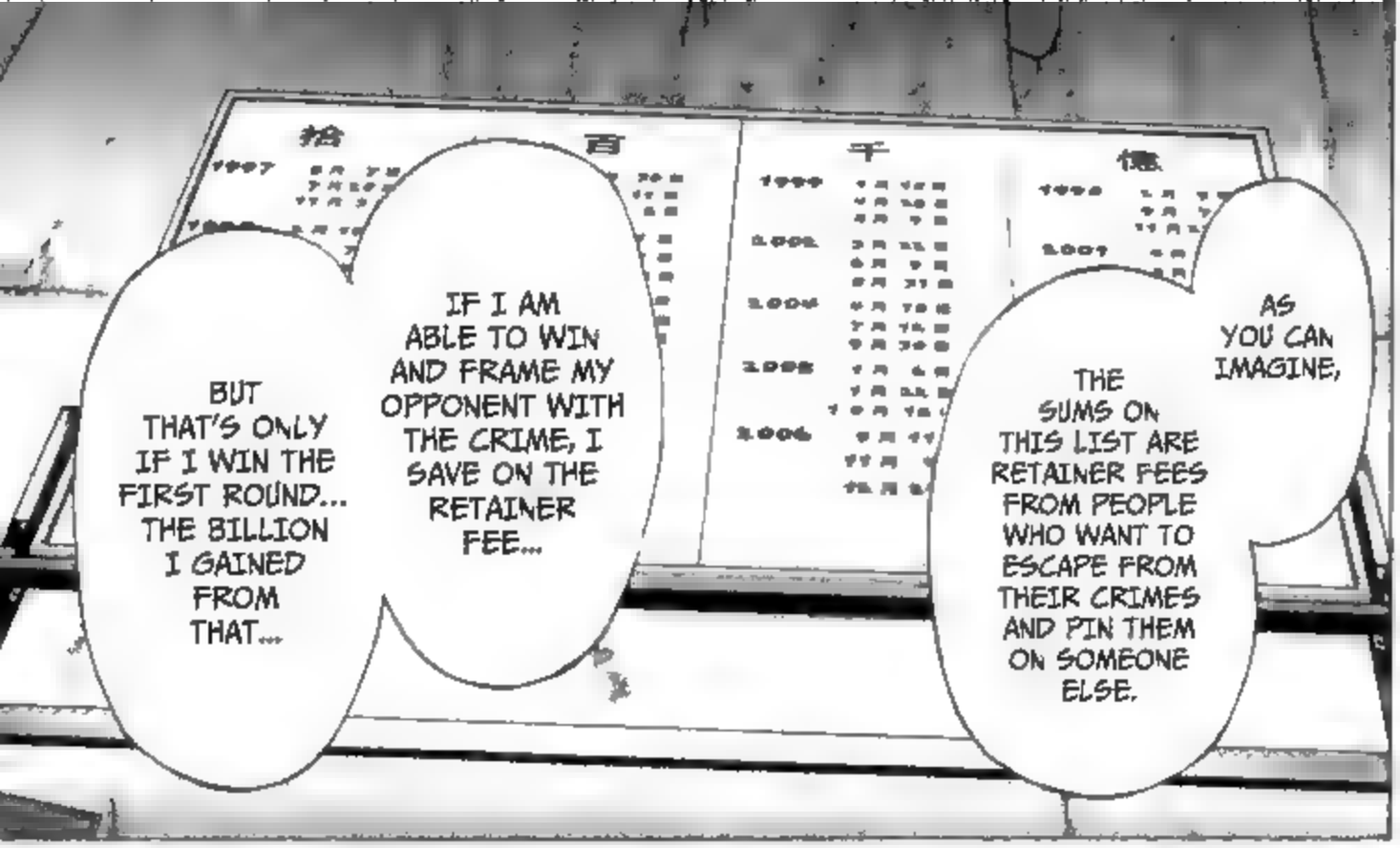
MONEY?
FOR THE NEXT GAME... I WILL BET ON THE DAY OF "SURPASSING THE LEADER"... TO GET YOU TO ACCEPT THIS GAMBLE...
WHAT MORE SHOULD I BET?
UP TO HOW MUCH CAN YOU BET? HOW MUCH...
FOR NOW, LET ME ASK YOU THIS, YUKKII.
MONEY, HUH. WELL, IF YOU SAY SO...
MONEY?
.....



SFX: flip flip flip



SFX: tap tap


AS YOU CAN IMAGINE,
THE SUMS ON THIS LIST ARE RETAINER FEES FROM PEOPLE WHO WANT TO ESCAPE FROM THEIR CRIMES AND PIN THEM ON SOMEONE ELSE.
IF I AM ABLE TO WIN AND FRAME MY OPPONENT WITH THE CRIME, I SAVE ON THE RETAINER FEE...
BUT THAT'S ONLY IF I WIN THE FIRST ROUND... THE BILLION I GAINED FROM THAT...

I'LL BET...
ALL OF IT.
.....

AFTER THE GAME... IF HE INTENDS TO RECOVER THE MONEY AFTER HE IS RELEASED...
THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH HE BETS
I BELIEVE HE MAY BE THINKING THIS.
THE CREDIBILITY OF THAT SUM AND THE FACT THAT YUKIDE CAN WORK WITH ONE BILLION...
ARE BOTH SUSPICIOUS...
...

KADOKURA-SAN... COULD YOU DO ME A SMALL FAVOR?
.....
IT'S ABOUT THE 100 MILLION I WON IN THE FIRST ROUND.

COULD YOU DEPOSIT THE MONEY TO MY BANK ACCOUNT RIGHT NOW?
I WON'T BE USING THIS MONEY TODAY ANYWAY. IT'S A NO MONEY GAMBLE FOR ME...
AND CARRYING IT MYSELF SEEMS LIKE A HASSLE... PLUS, YOU KNOW...

IT'S DANGEROUS TO WALK AROUND WITH A HUGE AMOUNT OF MONEY.
IT'S A SCARY WORLD, AFTER ALL.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN OUT THERE...
.....
ERM, WHERE CAN I MAKE A DEPOSIT...
ER..
BAKU-SAMA.
I REFUSE TO DO THAT,

WHAT?
PLEASE CARRY THE MONEY BACK YOURSELF.
I'M SURE THERE ARE REFEREES WHO WOULD ACCEPT THAT REQUEST, BUT I DON'T HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO DO SO.
CARRYING A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY MAY GIVE YOU A THRILLING EXPERIENCE... WELL. EITHER WAY,
WHY NOT JUST ENJOY IT?
..SO, BACK ON TOPIC,
OKAY..
CAN'T BE HELPED.
OH WELL.
ONE BILLION, WAS IT, YUKKII?
THE DAY WORTH ONE MILLION I LOST IN THE SECOND ROUND,
AND THE DAY YOU TOOK FROM KAJI-KUN WHO WAS HERE PREVIOUSLY,
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, GO AHEAD AND BET ONE BILLION... I'LL ACCEPT THAT...
!
ALONG WITH...

ALL THE DATES OF THE CRIMES YOU HAVE,
AND...
AS I THOUGHT...
BET ON THEM, TOO.
AND THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE REAL NAME OF THE REAL CULPRIT WHO COMMITTED ALL THESE CRIMES.

UNFORTU-
NATELY,
トントン
...BAKU-
KUN...
.....

SFX: tap tap

MOST IMPORTANTLY... REGARDING THE THINGS I DON'T KNOW... I CAN'T EXACTLY BET SOMETHING I DON'T OWN.
I DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH...
AND THE CLIENT MAY NOT NECESSA-RILY BE THE CULPRIT OF THE INCIDENTS.
I ONLY KNOW WHAT THE CRIME IS AND WHEN IT HAPPENED.

I'M FINE WITH WHAT YUKKII ONLY KNOWS.
You can't say you don't know again.
HEH... HEHEH
BET THE REVELATION OF THOSE FROM THE POLICE WHO ARE INVOLVED WITH THIS GAMBLE.
IS THAT SO.
ALL RIGHT THEN. INSTEAD,

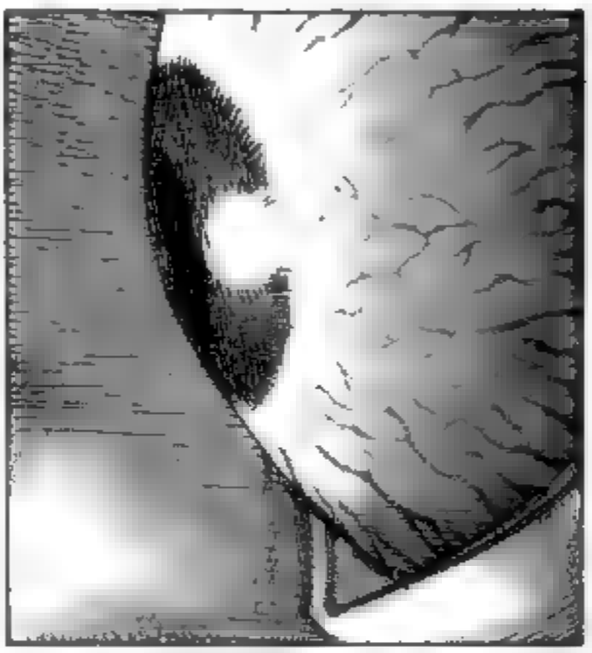
YOU SHITTY LITTLE ANT!
DON'T MESS WITH ME!
SFX: POUND
IF YOU'LL JUST QUIETLY LISTEN...
IF YOU'LL... QUIETLY...
DIDN'T I SAY THAT I'D BET ONE BIL-LION?!

!
.....
I'D... GIVE YOU... ONE BIL-LION...
EVEN THOUGH... EVEN THOUGH I SAID...

SFX: stand up

WELL... UH... HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS?
WH-WHAT?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M, YOU KNOW,

AT YUK-KII'S...
JUST LOOKING...
FEET.

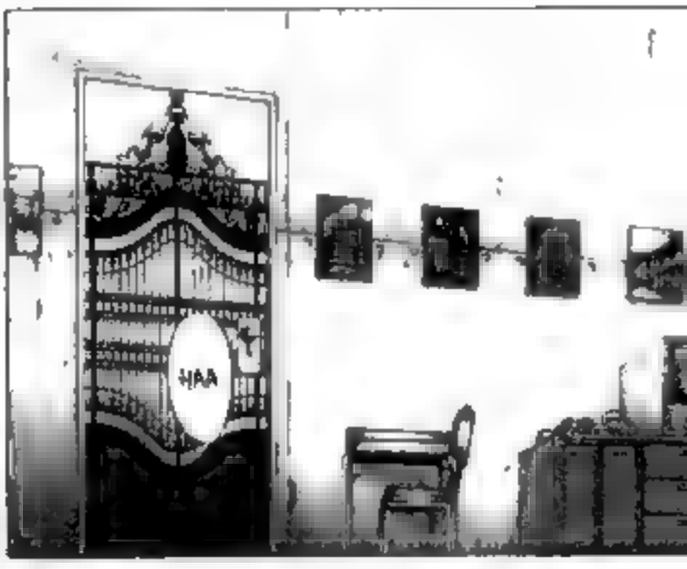


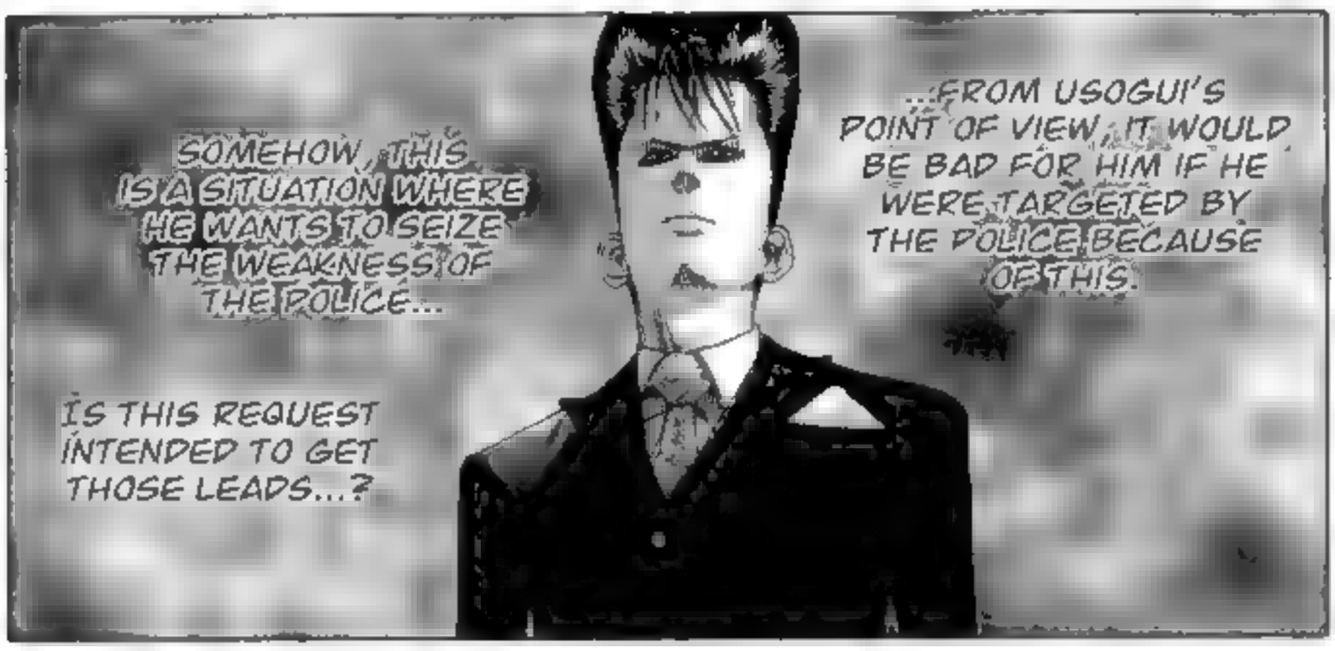
SFX: click clack

SFX. slam

HAA

HAA
HAA


HAA


SOMEHOW, THIS IS A SITUATION WHERE HE WANTS TO SEIZE THE WEAKNESS OF THE POLICE...
IS THIS REQUEST INTENDED TO GET THOSE LEADS...?
...FROM USOGUI'S POINT OF VIEW, IT WOULD BE BAD FOR HIM IF HE WERE TARGETED BY THE POLICE BECAUSE OF THIS.

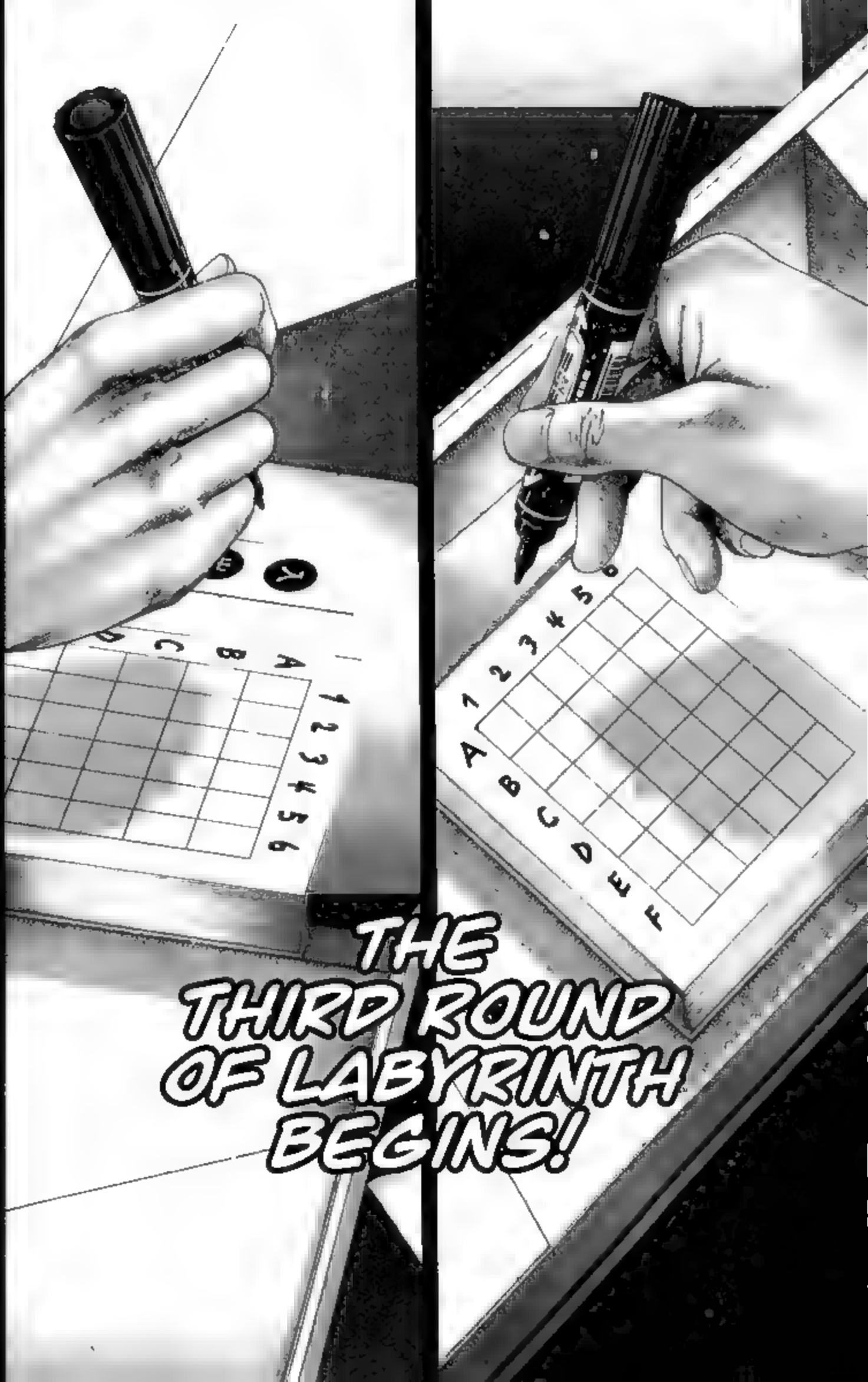
I UNDER-STAND .. THOSE TERMS.
IT DOESN'T MATTER AS LONG AS I WIN.

HAA
1 2 3 4 5 6
A
F
HAA
...WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

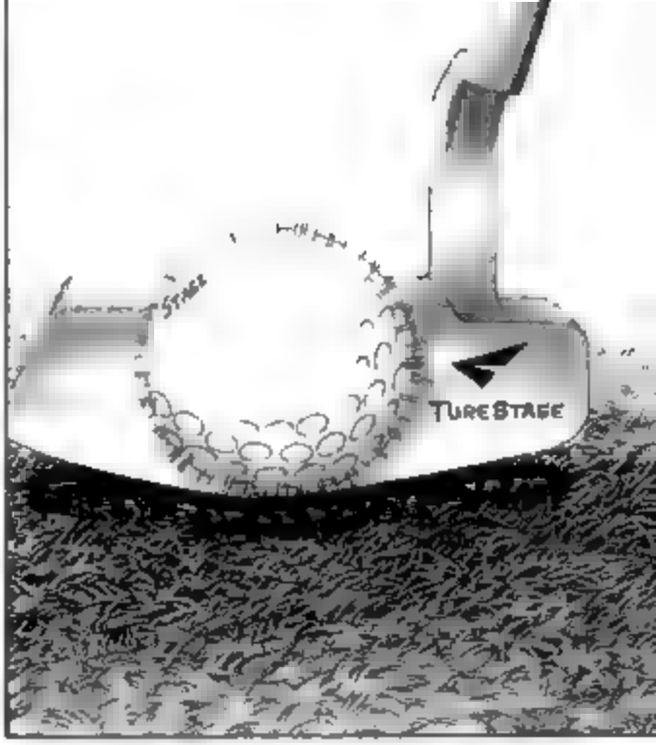
I SHALL ACCEPT THEM.
IT HAS BEEN DECI-DED...
I, KADO-KURA YUUDAI, PROMISE TO PRESIDE OVER THIS GAME AND KEEP IT FREE OF INCIDENTS.
LET US BEGIN.

GAMBLING MAY BE VAGUE, BUT IT IS A CONTRACT FOR LIFE THAT DOES NOT EXPIRE.

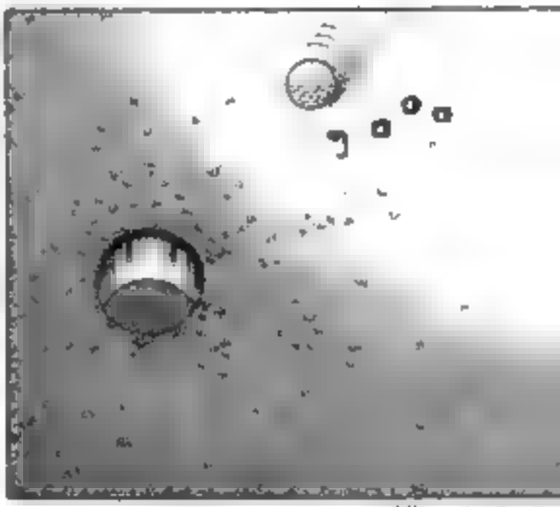
THE ONES CARRYING THE BURDEN OF THE CHAOS ARE WORN-OUT PLAYERS WHO LOST THEM-SELVES IN THE LABYRINTHS.


THE
THIRD ROUND
OF LABYRINTH
BEGINS!

第100話
大いなる過ち
Chapter 100:
A Big Mistake



SFX: clang



SFX: roll roll roll

YOU'RE STILL INTERFERING WITH MY SHOTS LIKE THIS?
It's against the rules.
?
LEADER.
HUUUUH?
YOU TOLD ME TO STOP? I DON'T REMEMBER... SORRY.

WELL, FORGIVE ME SINCE I AM EXTREMELY FORGET-FUL...
I SEEM TO HAVE FORGOT-TEN...
IF YOU SAY SO, YOU PROB-ABLY DID TELL ME, BUT
BY THE WAY, THIS IS THE 25TH TIME I'VE HIT ONE OF YOUR BALLS.
YOUR SHOTS ARE SO ACCURATE THAT I CAN'T HELP BUT WANT TO HINDER THEM.

.....

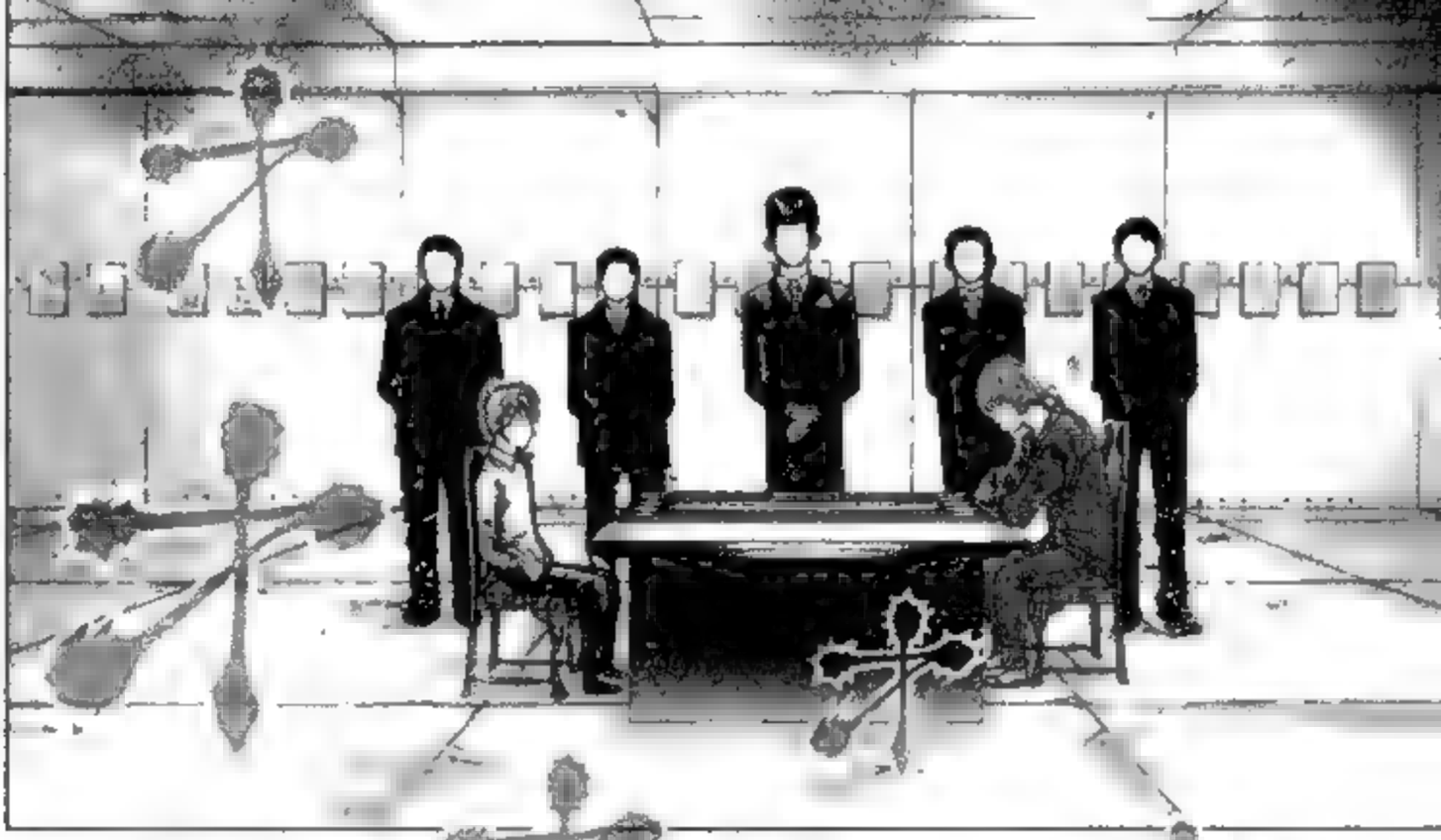
IS BLISSFUL.
YOU KNOW, FORGET-TING THINGS...

IT'S NICE. YOU CAN EXPERIENCE A FULFILLING MOMENT WITH A FRESH TAKE EVERY TIME.
EXPERIENCING IT WITH A DIFFERENT SELF... AND CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH THAT KIND OF REFRESHING FEELING...
HUMANS CAN CONTINUE TO LIVE BY FORGETTING...
BEING ABLE TO REMEMBER THINGS EASILY CAN ACTUALLY BRING PAIN TO YOURSELF. ERASE THE UNNECESSARY MEMORIES...
AND ONLY KEEP THE NECESSARY ONES.

I TAKE IT THAT...
I AM GIVEN SOLE AUTHORITY OVER THE DECISION FOR THIS MATTER...

THE PAST.
IT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM A CHEAP BOOK.
JUST THROW IT AWAY AFTER READING IT, REFEREE.

STILL A FEW MINUTES UNTIL THE GAME ENDS... USOGUI...
I AM NOT SO NAIVE AS TO BE USED BY YOU SO EASILY.



...IT'S NOT...

...NO...

...

.....

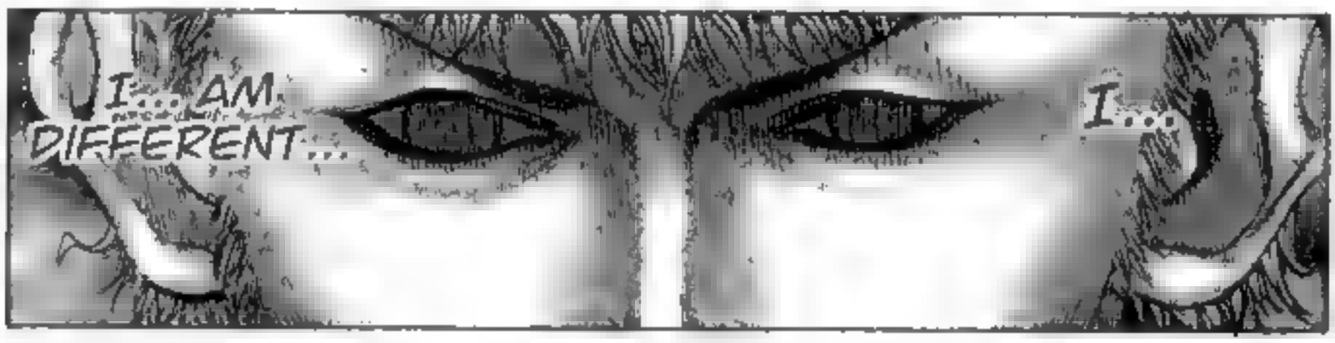
IT'S NOT....

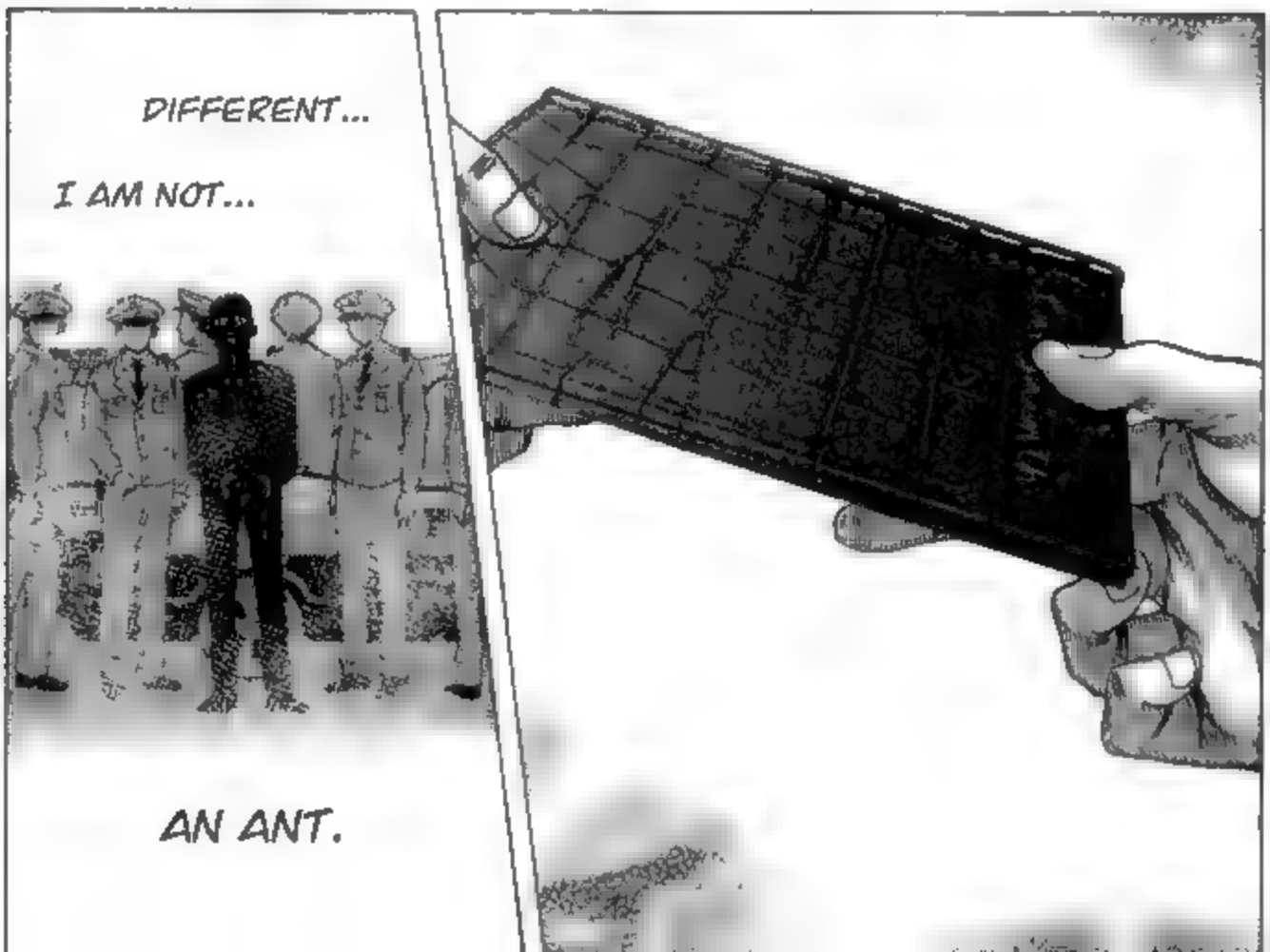
IT'S NOT ME...

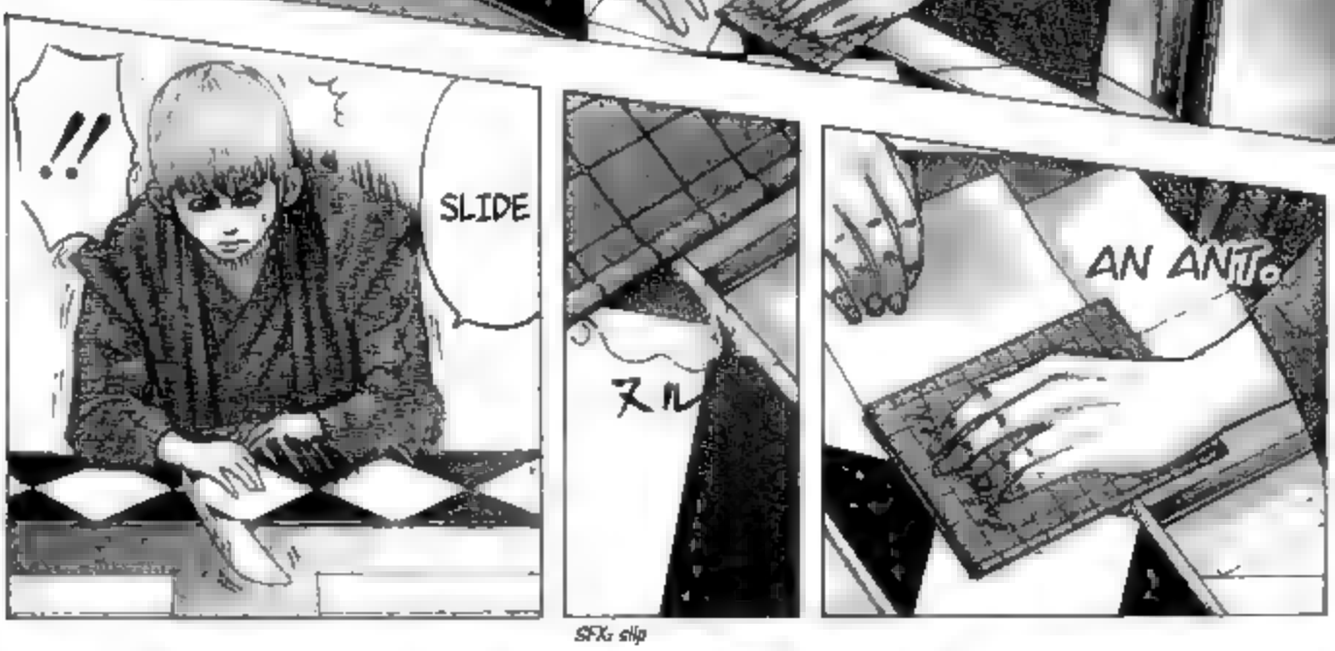
KAORU,

IT... IT'S NOT...

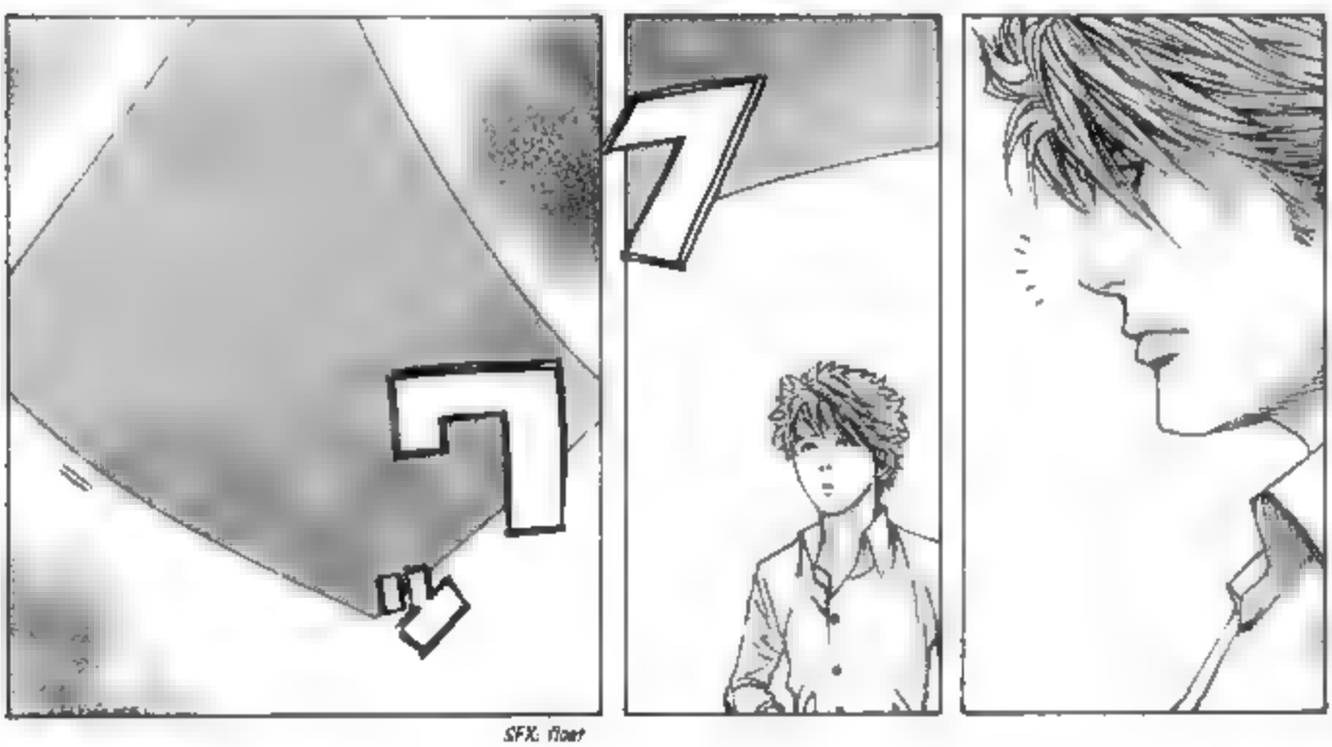
...NOT ME


I... AM DIFFERENT...
I...


DIFFERENT...
I AM NOT...
AN ANT.



SFX: slip



SFX: floor

SFX. slam

MY LABY-RINTH...
.....
DID YOU SEE IT?
ポリポリ
SFX: scratch scratch

A LITTLE.
SFX: tap

SEEMS LIKE YOUR DROOL MADE IT SLIP, I DID SEE A LITTLE THOUGH.
IT WAS SO SUDDEN, SO MY EYES JUST MOVED ON THEIR OWN...
YUKKII...
BUT... WHAT I SAW WASN'T THE LABY-RINTH.

MY LABYRINTH WHICH DROPPED UNDER THE TABLE... I SAW YOU...
TAKE A PEEK AT IT.
.....
.....
SLIP
BUT...
I DIDN'T LOOK.
...
BAKU-SAMA.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF YOU'RE SUSPICIOUS.

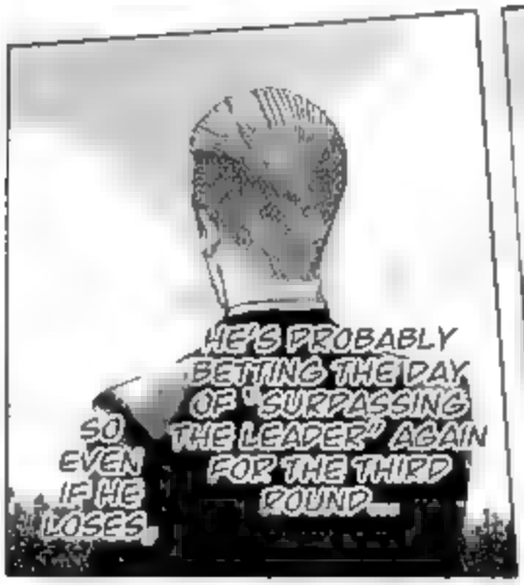
WHEN GAMBLING, DURING SITUATIONS LIKE THIS,
THE SIDE THAT MADE THE ERROR LOSES BY DEFAULT OR IS PENALIZED... HOWEVER,
IN THIS SITUATION, THERE IS NO SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENT REGARDING THE NOTEBOOK DROPPED BY ACCIDENT.

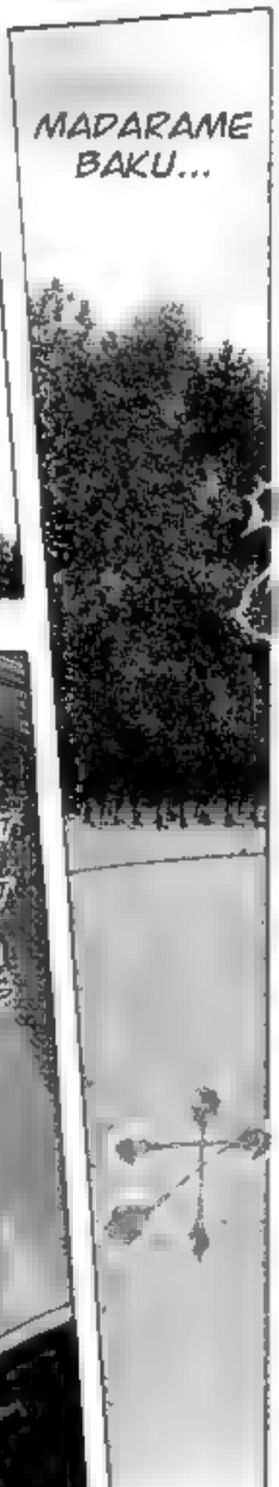
THE PARTIES INVOLVED WILL HAVE TO MAKE A JUDGMENT... FORTUNATELY, THE GAME HAS NOT STARTED YET.
SINCE BAKU-SAMA ALSO COMMITTED A SIMILAR ACT DURING THE FIRST ROUND ..
HOW ABOUT IT? IF IT IS FINE WITH BAKU-SAMA...

OKAY THEN, WE'LL RESTART.
.....
MAKE SURE TO WIPE YOUR DIRTY DROOL REAL WELL THIS TIME.

YOU'RE RIGHT,
SINCE I ALSO RUMMAGED THROJGH YUKKII'S STUFF DURING THE FIRST ROUND...

DISPOSE OF THEM.
I SHALL...
THEN THESE TWO LABYRINTHS YOU MADE RIGHT NOW...


SO EVEN IF HE LOSES
HE'S PROBABLY BETTING THE DAY OF "SURPASSING THE LEADER" AGAIN FOR THE THIRD ROUND...


MADARAME BAKU...

.....

"THERE IS NO RISK..."
IF THAT IS WHAT HE IS THINKING,
"IT WAS ORIGINALLY HIS LIFE THAT SHOULD BE CLAIMED, BUT WAS LEFT ASIDE... IT'S JUST COMING BACK TO HIM... SO..

A BIG MISTAKE.
HE IS MAKING...

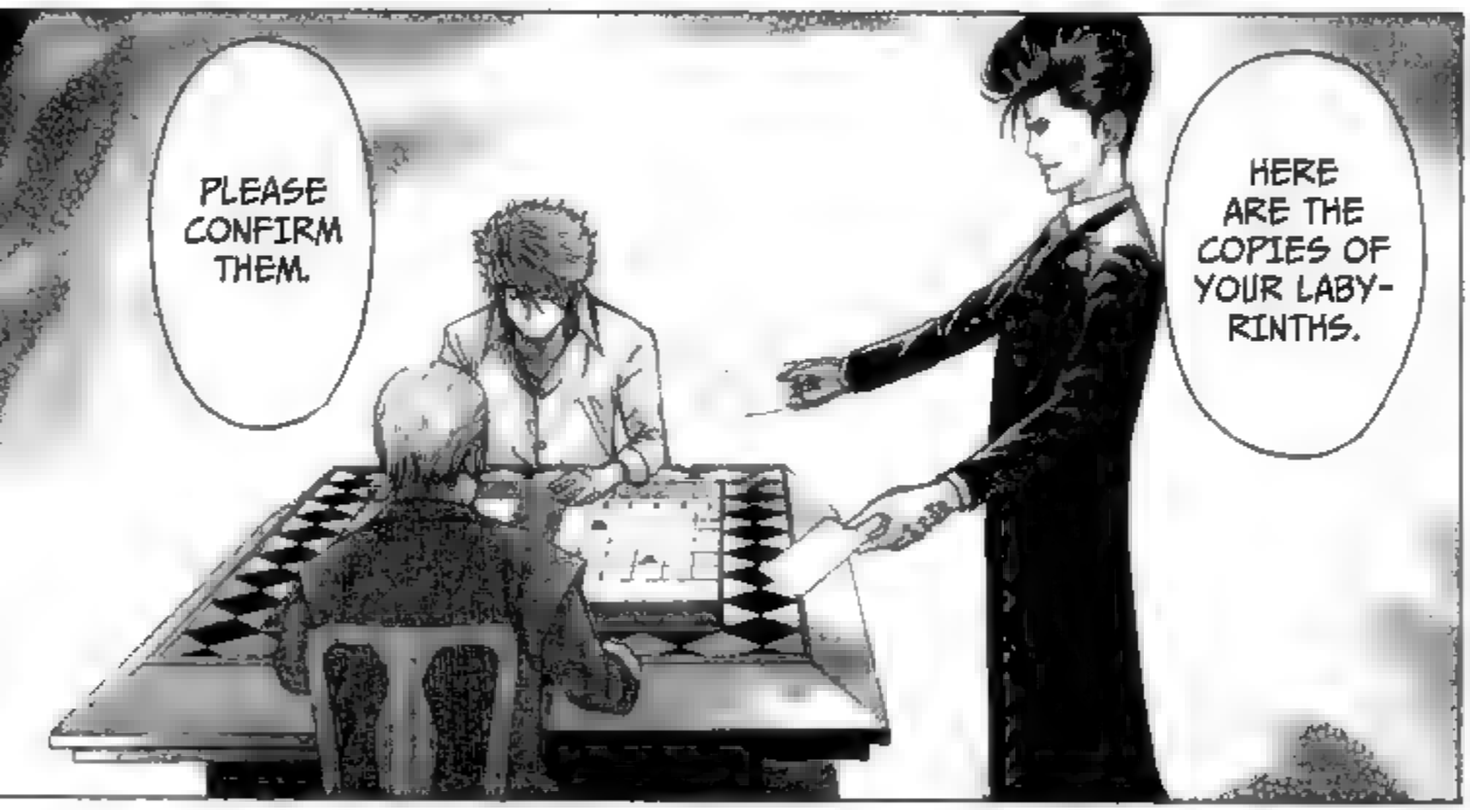
I HAVE DECIDED. I WILL PUT THIS MATTER TO AN END TODAY.
IF HE LOSES, HE'LL BE DISPOSED OF RIGHT HERE AND THERE.

きのうの
死亡
人
おやいやり
人に刺

1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
F

I'M SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING.
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK

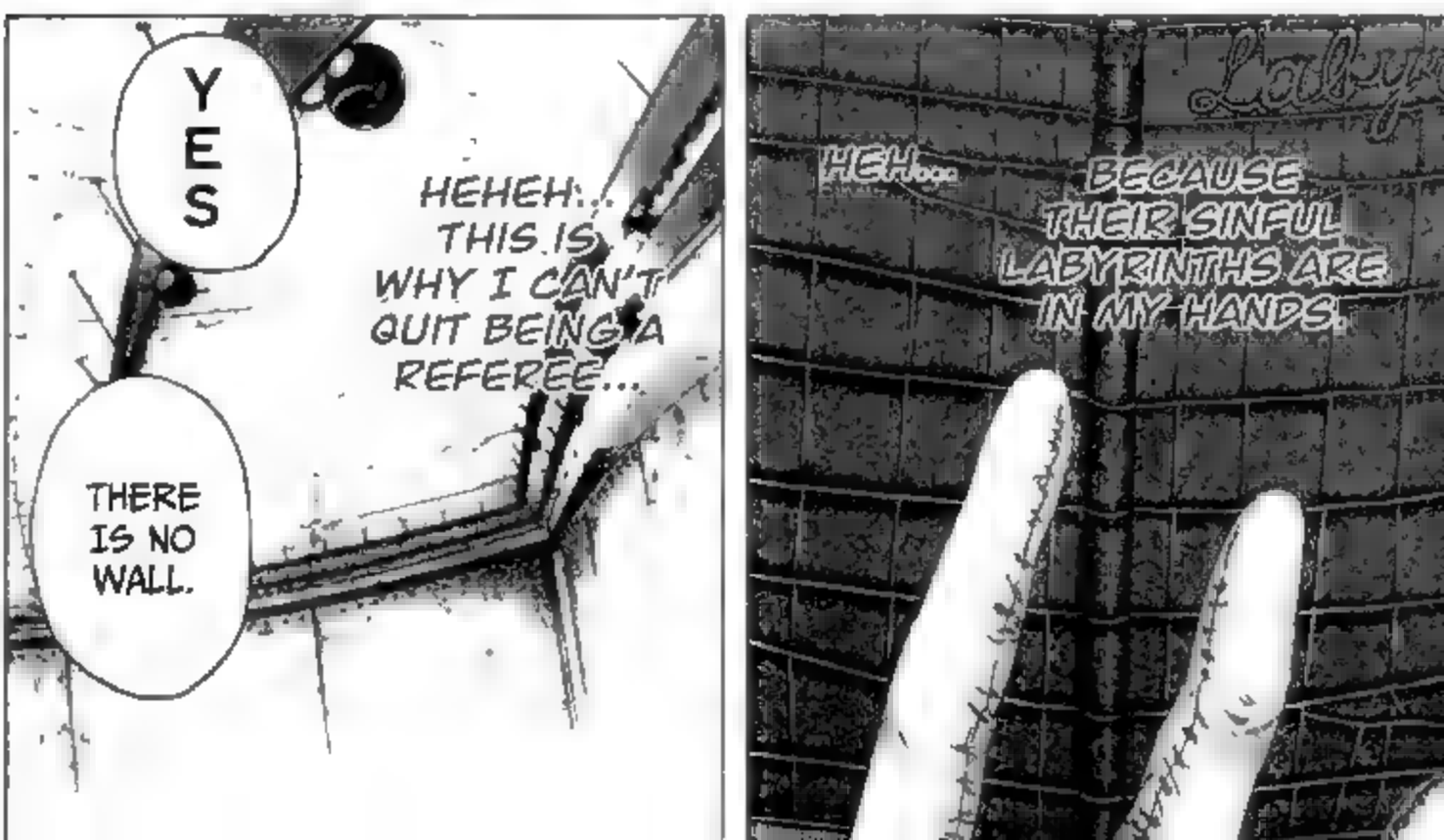
SFX. turn


PLEASE CONFIRM THEM.
HERE ARE THE COPIES OF YOUR LABYRINTHS.

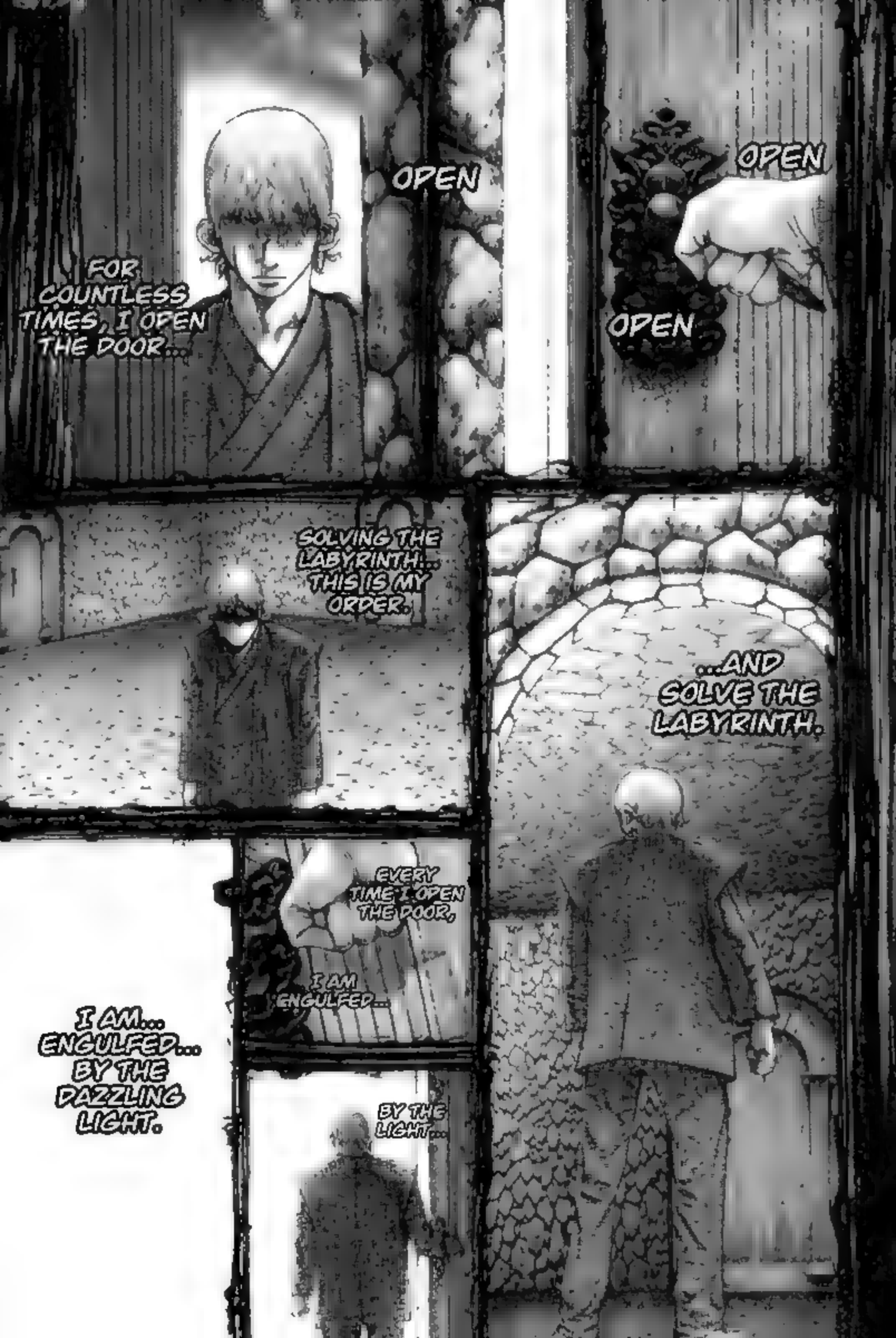
A
B
C
D
E
F
YUKIIDE-SAMA WILL GO FIRST. PLEASE BEGIN.

YES
THERE IS NO WALL.
1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
入
出
ES, KADOKURA-SAN.
.....

THE KINDS OF MEASURES THEY HAVE TAKEN AGAINST EACH OTHER ARE LEAKED TO ME.
.....
NEXT, F5.

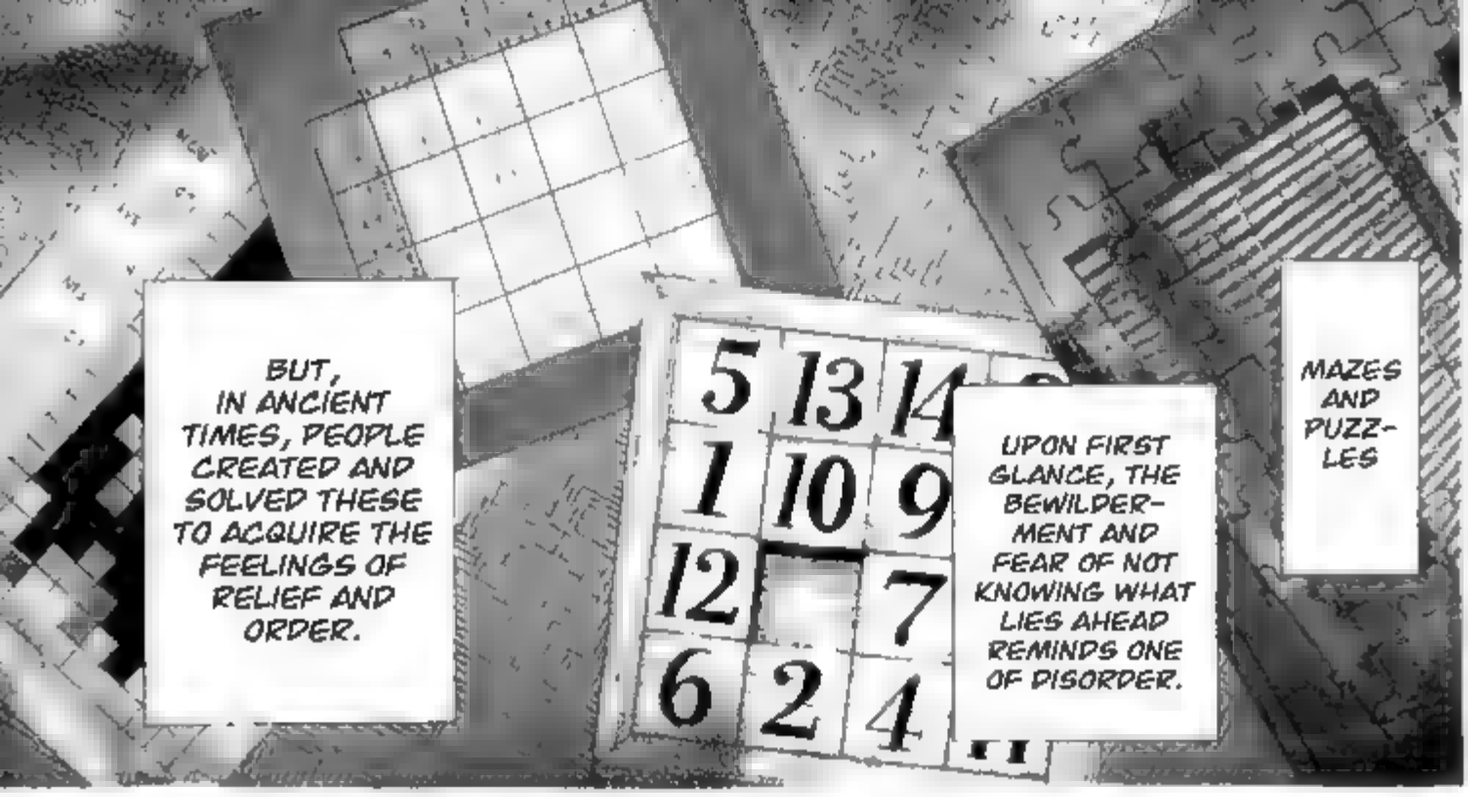

YES
THERE IS NO WALL.
HEHEH... THIS IS WHY I CAN'T QUIT BEING A REFEREE...
HEH... BECAUSE THEIR SINFUL LABYRINTHS ARE IN MY HANDS.

Chapter 101:
Order That Must Be Kept

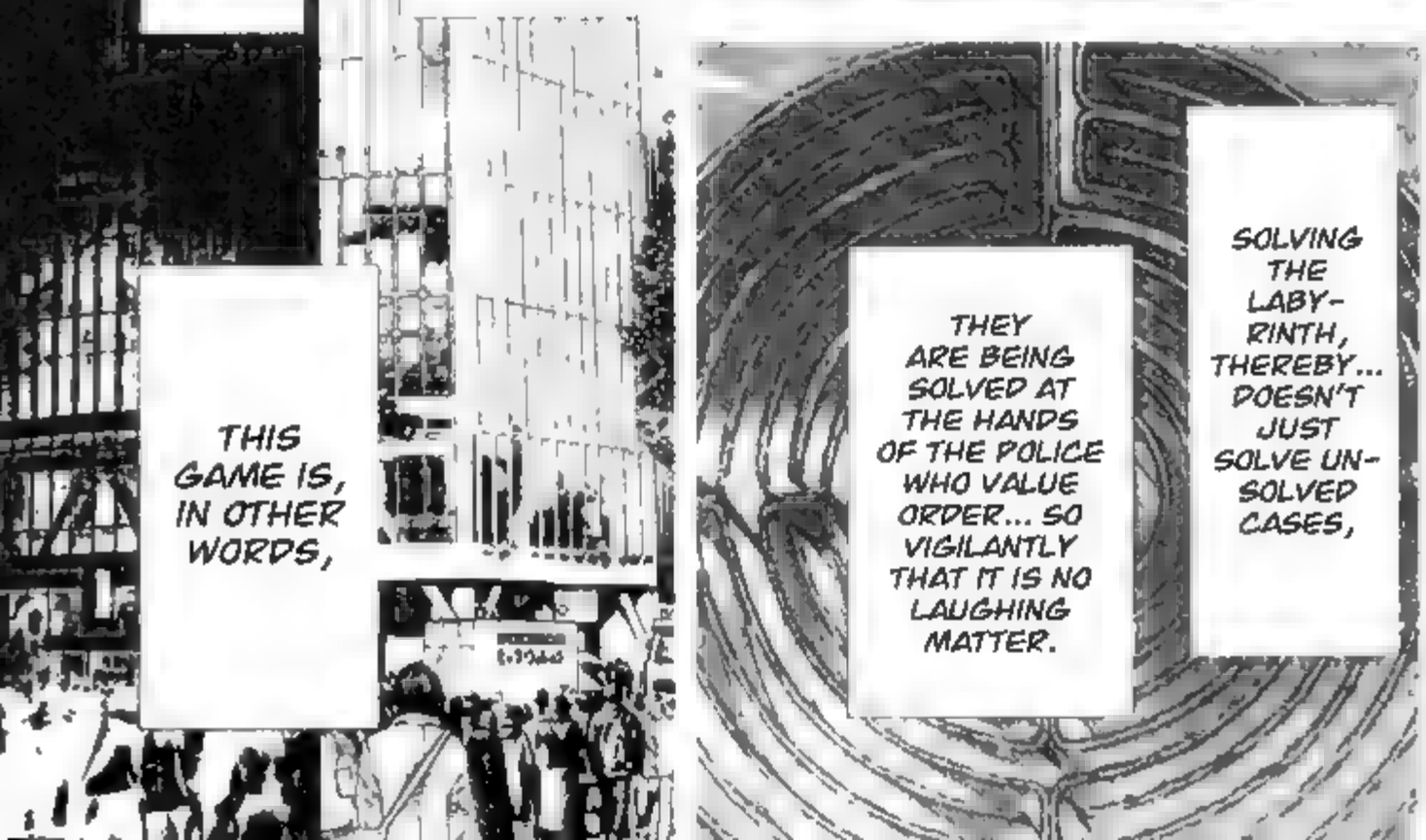

OPEN
OPEN
OPEN
FOR COUNTLESS TIMES, I OPEN THE DOOR...
SOLVING THE LABYRINTH... THIS IS MY ORDER.
...AND SOLVE THE LABYRINTH.
EVERY TIME I OPEN THE DOOR,
I AM ENGULFED...
I AM... ENGULFED... BY THE DAZZLING LIGHT.
BY THE LIGHT...

I HAVE SOLVED IT ONCE AGAIN...
THIS LABYRINTH,
THE PATH TO ORDER.

THE LABYRINTH WAS CREATED FROM THIS ORDER.
1
F
THE PATH TO VICTORY HAS BEEN OPENED.


MAZES AND PUZZ-LES
UPON FIRST GLANCE, THE BEWILDER-MENT AND FEAR OF NOT KNOWING WHAT LIES AHEAD REMINDS ONE OF DISORDER.
BUT, IN ANCIENT TIMES, PEOPLE CREATED AND SOLVED THESE TO ACQUIRE THE FEELINGS OF RELIEF AND ORDER.

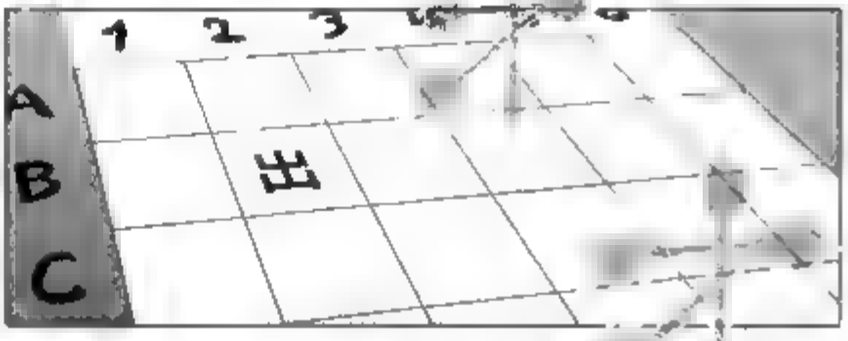
NO MATTER HOW COMPLEX AND RANDOM IT LOOKS, THERE EXISTS A CERTAIN PATTERN... A MAZE WITH AN ANSWER.
IN OTHER WORDS, MAZES ARE SUGGES-TIONS TO ORDER.
BUT THERE IS NOTHING MORE IN-EVITABLE THAN THIS STRUC-TURE...
AND THE BATTLE BETWEEN THESE TWO PEOPLE...


SOLVING THE LABY-RINTH, THEREBY... DOESN'T JUST SOLVE UN-SOLVED CASES,
THEY ARE BEING SOLVED AT THE HANDS OF THE POLICE WHO VALUE ORDER... SO VIGILANTLY THAT IT IS NO LAUGHING MATTER.
THIS GAME IS, IN OTHER WORDS,

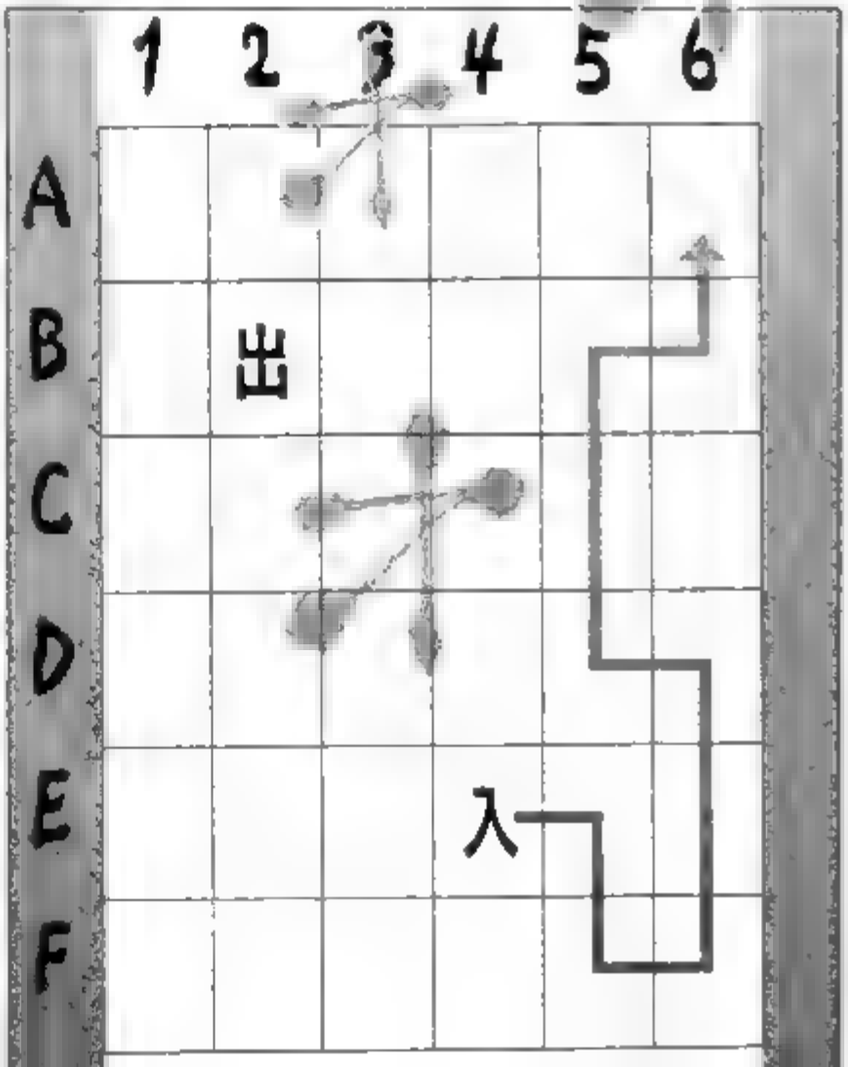
THE BATTLE OF CHAOS...
Madarame Baku
AND ORDER.
Yukiide Kaoru

YES
THERE IS NO WALL, YUKIIDE-SAMA.

NO SIGNS OF HESITATION SEEN...
SO FAR IN THE THIRD ROUND.
.....

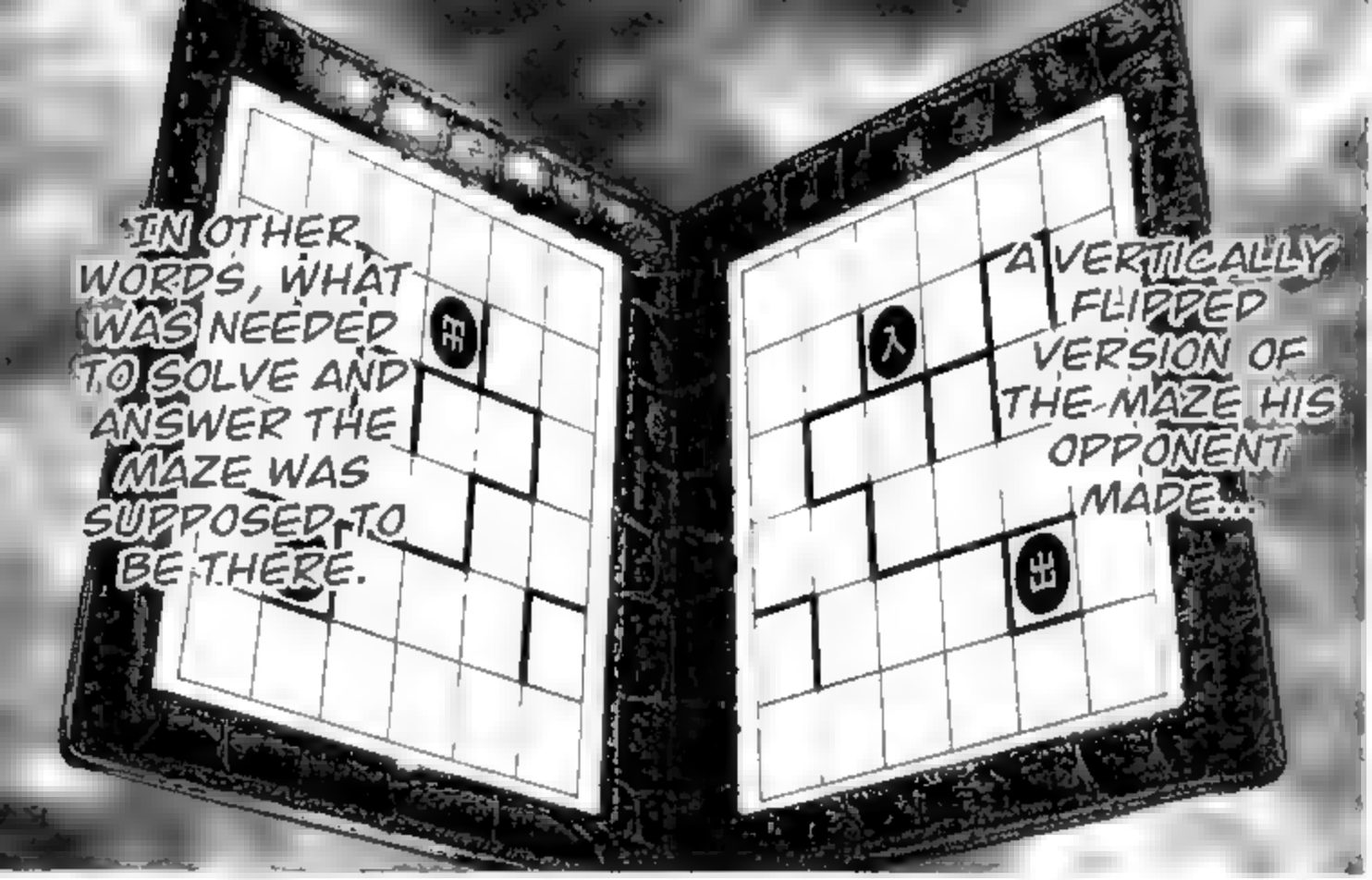

1 2 3
A
B
C
EE

THERE IS NO SPECK OF HESITATION IN HIS STEPS.
I ONLY KNOW THIS BECAUSE I'VE SEEN BOTH OF THEIR MAZES... BUT...

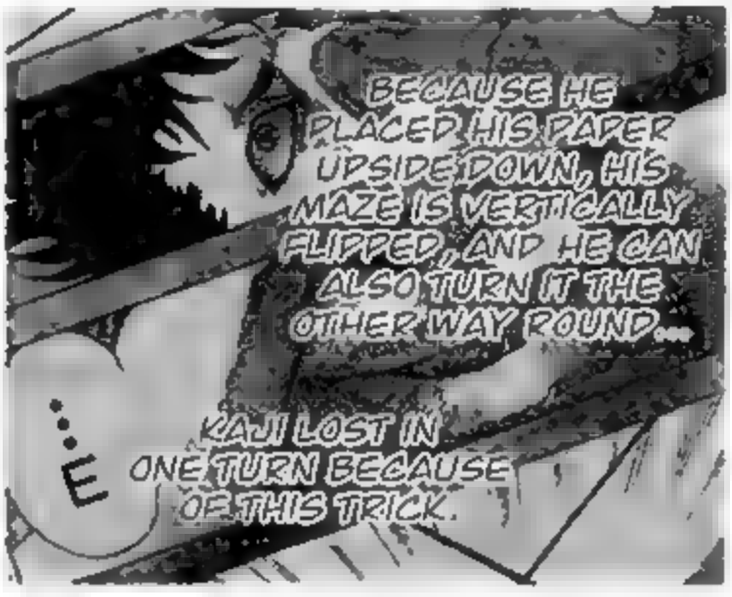

1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
F
EE
入

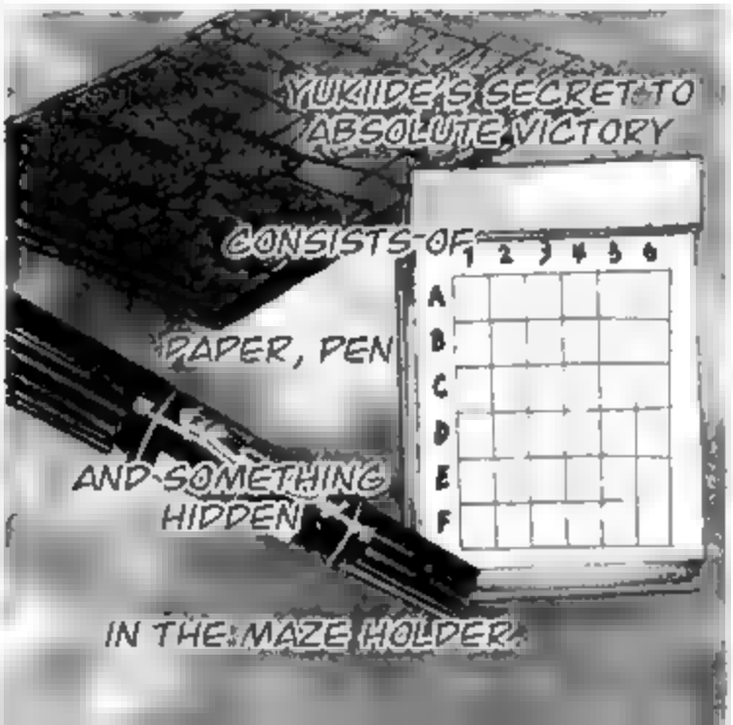
AT THAT TIME, WHAT YUKIIDE SAW
WAS THE MAZE IN HIS HAND.
DURING THE FIRST ROUND...
HOW BEMUSED HE MUST'VE BEEN.

YUKIIDE DIDN'T EVEN DRAW A SINGLE WALL... BUT...
ONCE HE GOT IT BACK FROM ME, THERE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SOMETHING MARKED ON IT.
COMPLETELY FREE OF WALLS...
1 2 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
F
AND NOT MARKED AT ALL.

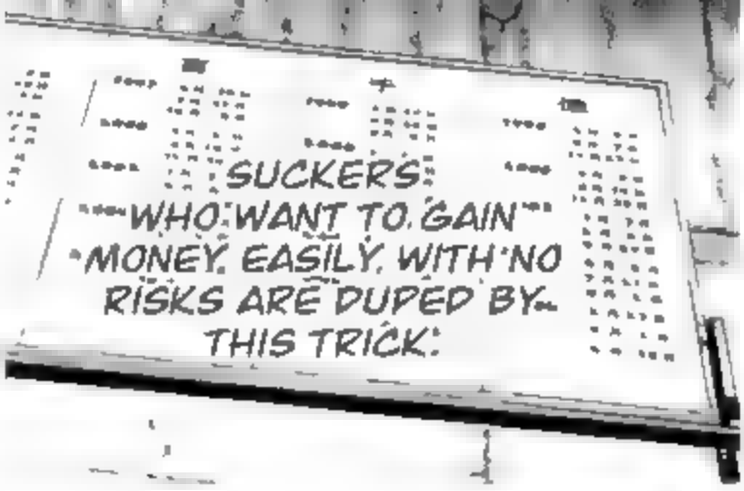

IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT WAS NEEDED TO SOLVE AND ANSWER THE MAZE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THERE.
A VERTICALLY FLIPPED VERSION OF THE MAZE HIS OPPONENT MADE...

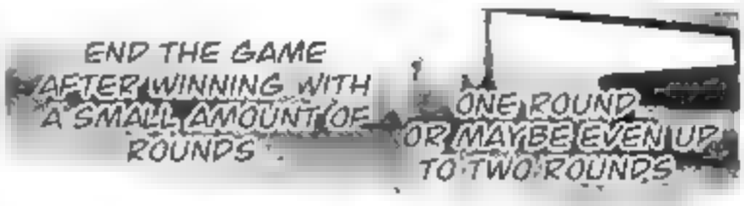
WE COULD SAY IT'S A KIND OF MAGIC.

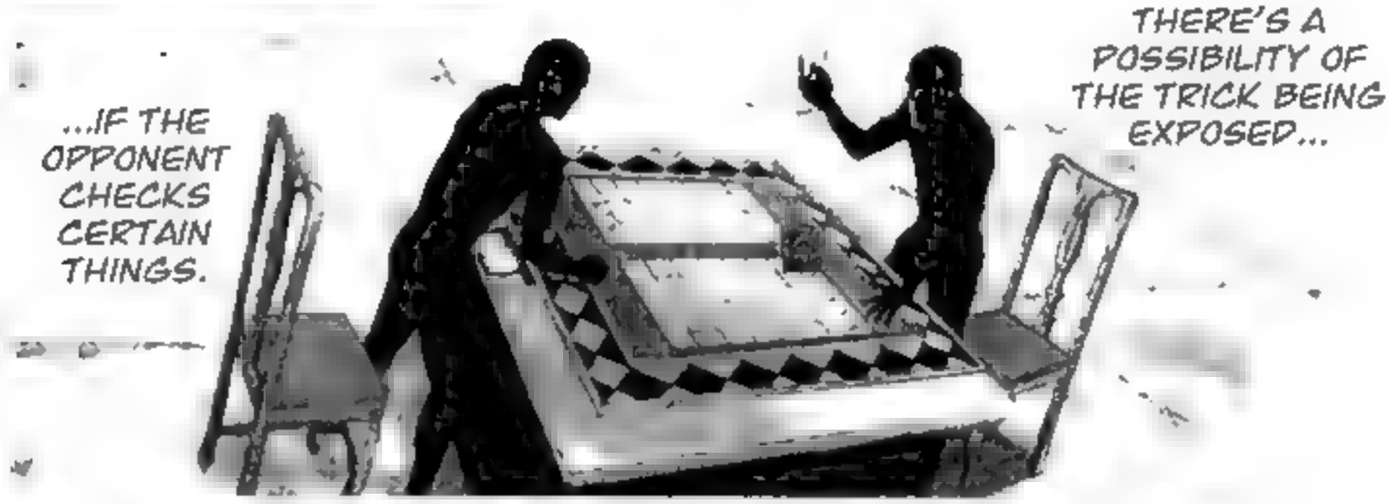

BECAUSE HE PLACED HIS PAPER UPSIDE DOWN, HIS MAZE IS VERTICALLY FLIPPED, AND HE CAN ALSO TURN IT THE OTHER WAY ROUND...
...E
KAJI LOST IN ONE TURN BECAUSE OF THIS TRICK.


YUKIDE'S SECRET TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY
CONSISTS OF
PAPER, PEN
AND SOMETHING HIDDEN
IN THE MAZE HOLDER.
1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
F

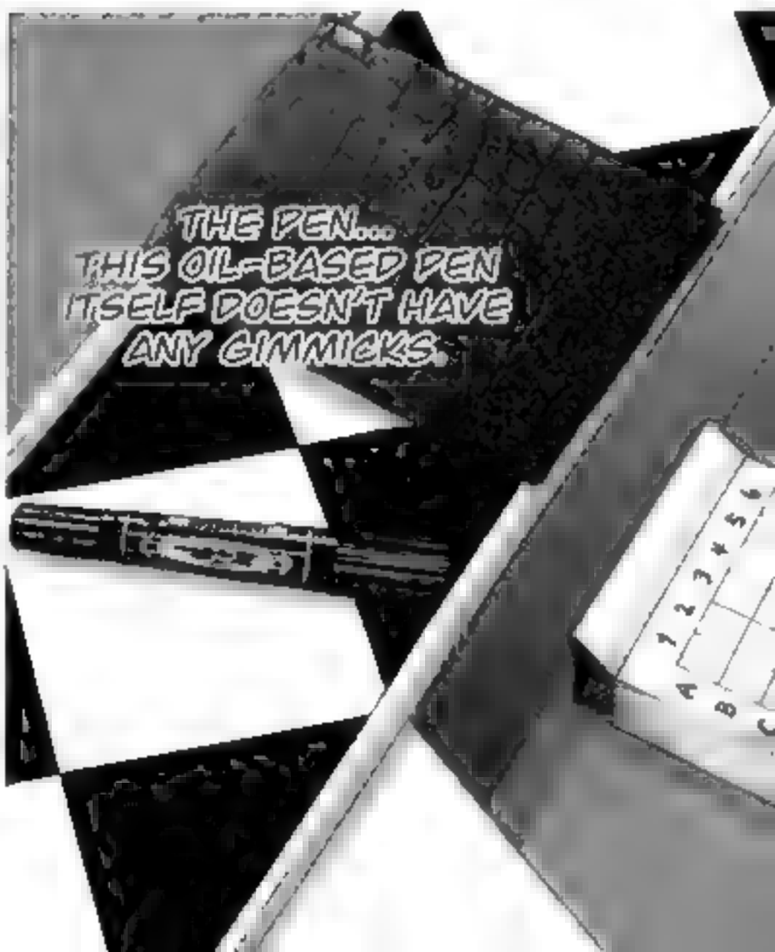
YOU COULD SAY THAT THOSE PREMISES CONCEAL THE TRICK ITSELF.
IF THEY WERE OF EQUAL STANDING, HE WOULD THINK TWICE ABOUT USING THIS TRICK.


SUCKERS WHO WANT TO GAIN MONEY EASILY WITH NO RISKS ARE DUPED BY THIS TRICK.


END THE GAME AFTER WINNING WITH A SMALL AMOUNT OF ROUNDS
ONE ROUND OR MAYBE EVEN UP TO TWO ROUNDS


...IF THE OPPONENT CHECKS CERTAIN THINGS.
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY OF THE TRICK BEING EXPOSED...

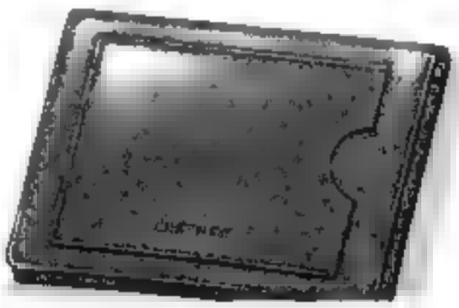
A
B
C
D
E
F
1 2 3 4 5 6
THERE ACTUALLY LIES A TRICK IN YUKIIDE'S LABYRINTH SHEET.
THIS PAPER...


THE PEN... THIS OIL-BASED PEN ITSELF DOESN'T HAVE ANY GIMMICKS.

...CHANGES COLOR...

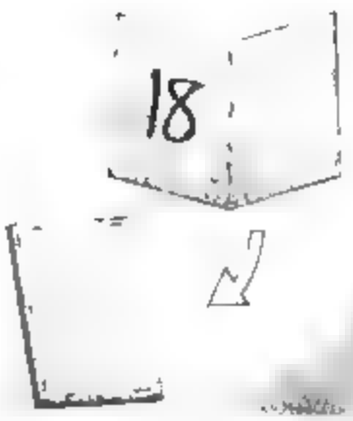
...IN REACTION TO OIL-BASED PENS.

SIMILAR TO ONES USED ON MAGIC SHOWS.



THIS IS A CLOSE-UP MAGIC TRICK...

FIRST, A PAPER WITH A NUMBER WRITTEN BY AN AUDIENCE MEMBER IS FOLDED IN HALF.

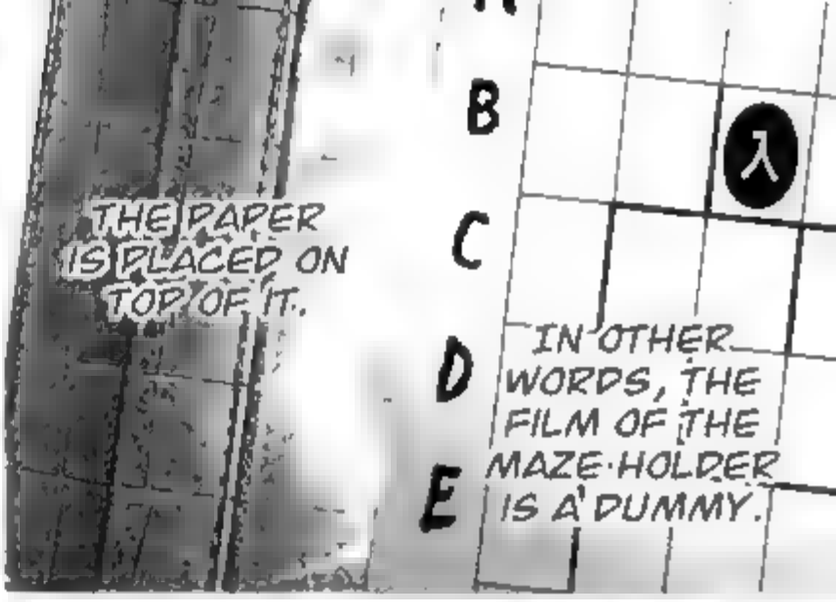


THE NUMBER IS THEN TRANSFERRED TO THE SPECIAL PAPER ON THE OTHER SIDE.

WITH THE FOLDED PAPER ON TOP OF THE FILM, AND CLOSED.

IT IS THEN PUT INSIDE SOMETHING LIKE A TICKET HOLDER,

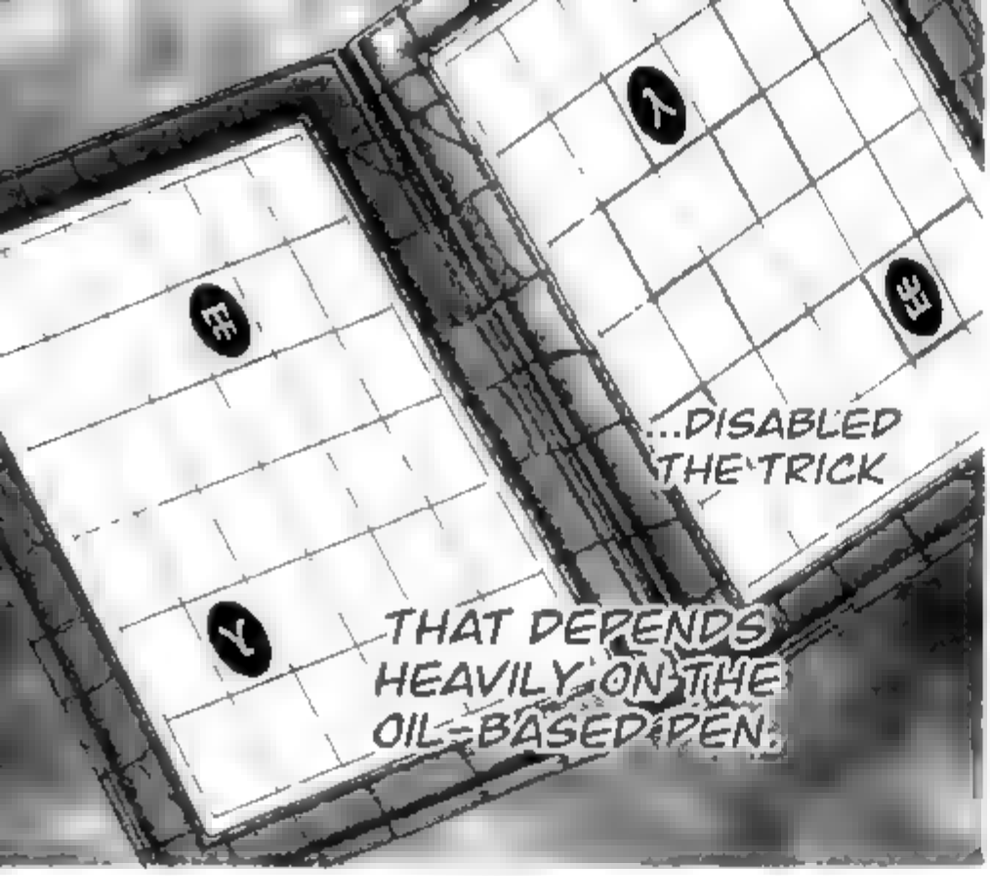
2
3
4
5
6
D
E
YUKIIDE PLACES HIS ENTRANCE AND EXIT ON THE FLIPPED OR VERTICALLY FLIPPED POSITIONS OF HIS OPPONENTS,
THE REASON FOR THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT BEING STICKERS IS BECAUSE IF IT WERE IN PEN, IT WOULD ALSO GET FLIPPED.


THE PAPER IS PLACED ON TOP OF IT.
B
C
D
E
IN OTHER WORDS, THE FILM OF THE MAZE HOLDER IS A DUMMY.

NOW, TAKE NOTE OF MINE TOO
HE LETS HIS OPPONENTS STATE THE LOCATION OF THEIR ENTRANCE AND EXIT FIRST
I SEE SO THAT'S HOW YOURS IS AFTER ALL, THAT'S THE OBVIOUS CHOICE

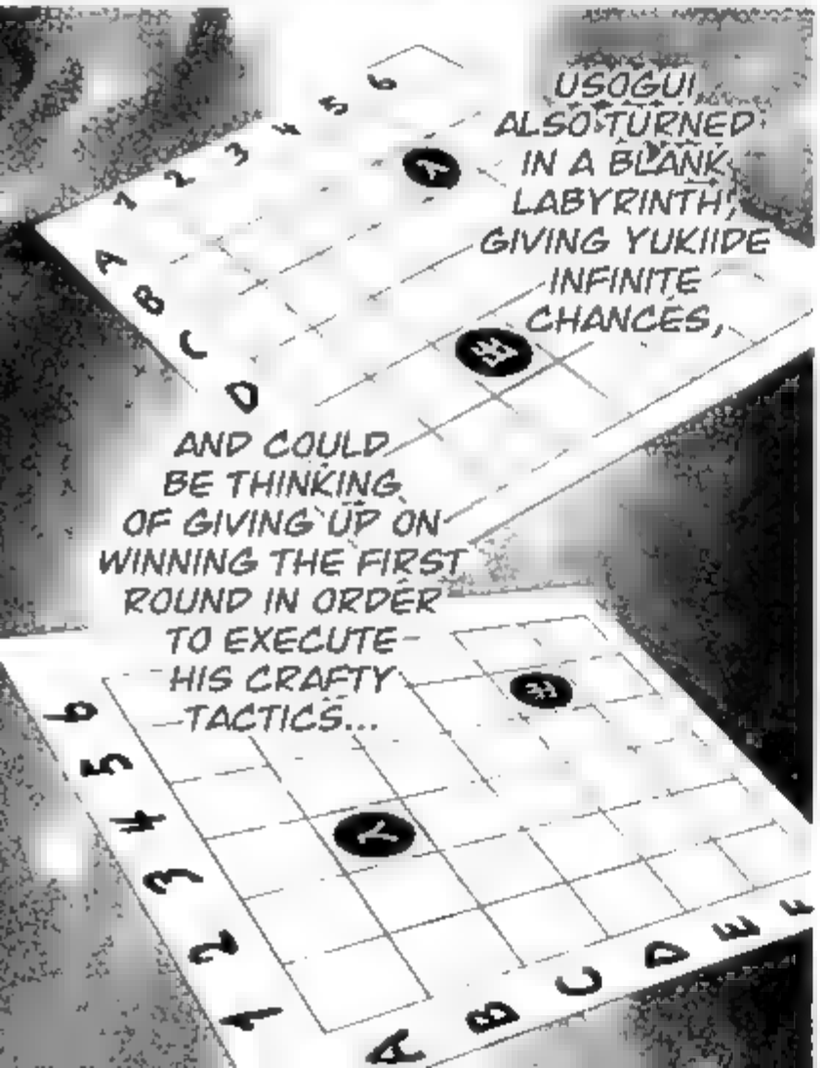
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO WORK.
USOGUI'S LABYRINTH WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DUPLICATED...
BUT IN THE FIRST ROUND,

I GUESS THIS IS OBVIOUS, BUT I'M FILLING MY ROLE.
KAJI-KUN
AND AFTER CLOSING THE NOTEBOOK, AND STALLING TIME WITH SOME SMALL TALK,
OUR LABYRINTHS ARE IN HERE.
WE CAN FINALLY START THE GAME BUT BAKU-KUN.


...DISABLED THE TRICK
THAT DEPENDS HEAVILY ON THE OIL-BASED PEN.

USOGUI SUBMITTED THE DRAFT OF HIS LABYRINTH WHICH HE USED PENCIL ON AND...

AND CAME UP WITH TWO POSSIBILITIES.
YUKIIDE BECAME PUZZLED BY THIS PHENOMENON...


USOGUI ALSO TURNED IN A BLANK LABYRINTH, GIVING YUKIIDE INFINITE CHANCES,
AND COULD BE THINKING OF GIVING UP ON WINNING THE FIRST ROUND IN ORDER TO EXECUTE HIS CRAFTY TACTICS...

ONE WAS THAT USOGUI SIMPLY JUST FORGOT TO USE THE OIL-BASED PEN.
THE SECOND WAS THAT...

THAT USOGUI WASN'T LOOKING AT HIS OWN LABYRINTH

AND WAS SURE THAT IT WAS THE SECOND POSSIBILITY.

AFTER MUCH CONTEMPLATION, YUKIIDE SAW...

IT'S NATURAL TO CHECK THE ANSWERS YOURSELF... HE DIDN'T DO THAT, BECAUSE...

WHEN YOUR LABYRINTH IS BEING SOLVED,

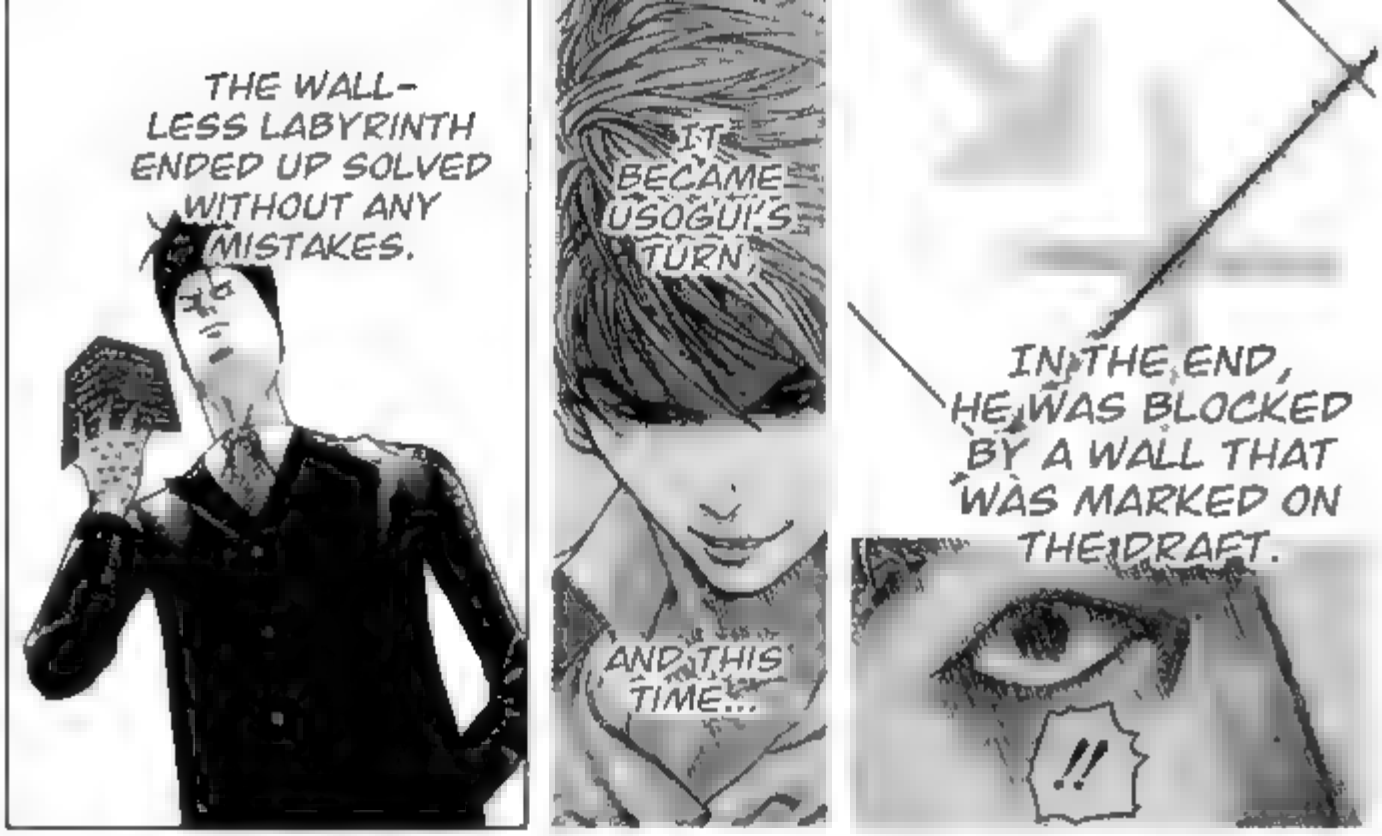
A SENSE OF CLEARNESS SIMILAR TO WHAT KAJI EXPERIENCED HAD BEEN BORN.

IT'S HILARIOUS TO THINK HOW PANICKED USOGUI WAS AT THAT TIME.

WAIT, WHAT'S GOING ON?

IT WAS BLANK.

WITH THAT CONCLUSION, YUKIIDE CONTINUED HIS STEPS WITH CONFIDENCE.


THE WALL-LESS LABYRINTH ENDED UP SOLVED WITHOUT ANY MISTAKES.
IT BECAME USOGUI'S TURN.
AND THIS TIME...
IN THE END, HE WAS BLOCKED BY A WALL THAT WAS MARKED ON THE DRAFT.
!!

3... IT'S A3
A..
NEXT IS...
KADO-KURA-SAN

...
THERE IS NO WALL.
YES

AFTER MAKING HIS OPPONENT STATE THE POSITION OF THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT,

ENTRANCE IS B2.

EXIT IS E5.

HE HAS TO ACCURATELY PLACE HIS ENTRANCE AND EXIT AT THE FLIPPED POSITIONS.

FIRST OF ALL, THERE ARE SOME NECESSARY ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN FOR YUKIIDE'S TRICK.

THESE ACTIONS WON'T BE SUSPECTED AS LONG AS THEY'RE ONLY DONE ONCE OR TWICE.

SECOND, THE ACT OF CLOSING THE MAZE HOLDER.

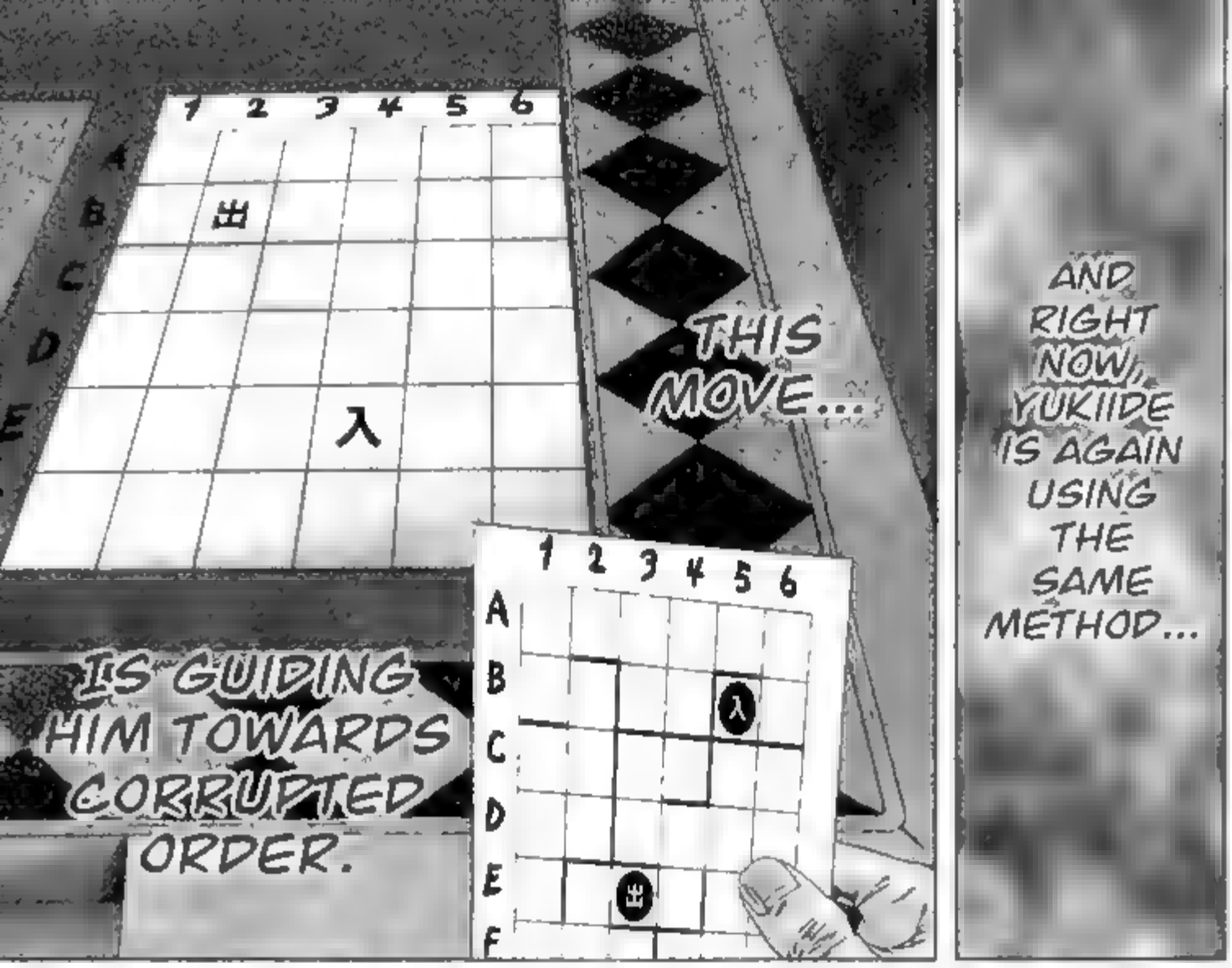
AND PLAYED THE SECOND ROUND NORMALLY.

IF THE NOTEBOOK ISN'T CLOSED, THE WALLS CAN'T BE DUPLICATED.

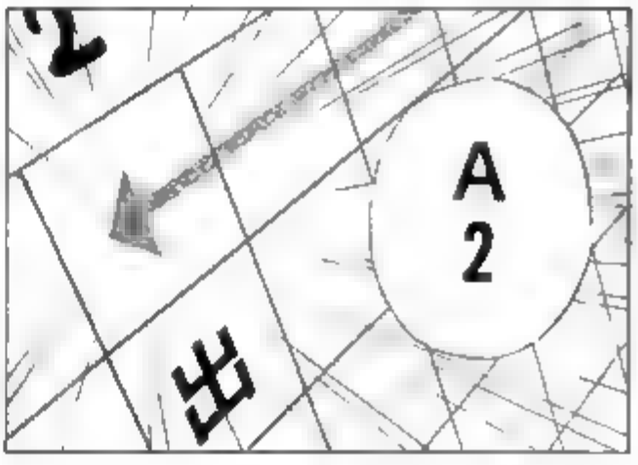
IN ORDER TO ERASE THE UNNATURALNESS OF THOSE ACTIONS,

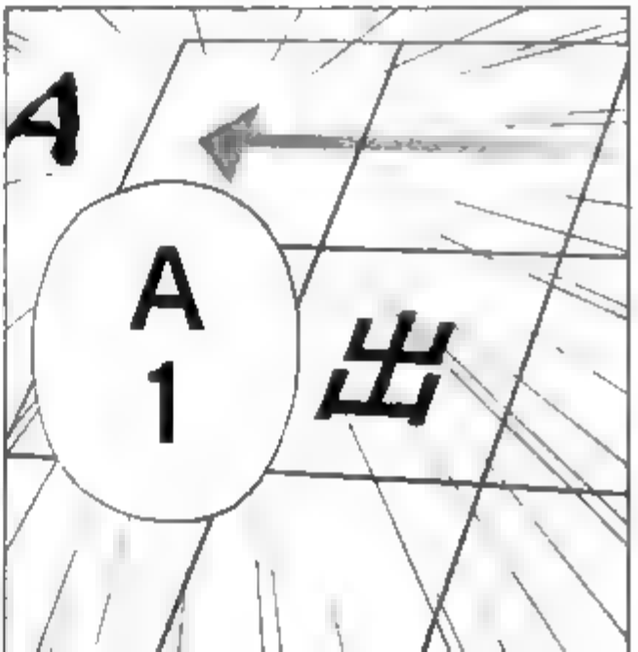
HE BET ON A DAY WITH A LOW AMOUNT,

1998年10月3日
1999年12月15日
2000年6月28日 百
2001年4月9日 百
2002年7月6日 百


1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
出
入
THIS MOVE...
IS GUIDING HIM TOWARDS CORRUPTED ORDER.
1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
F
入
出
AND RIGHT NOW, YUKIDE IS AGAIN USING THE SAME METHOD...

B 1
...YES...
...THE UNPREDICTABLE...


A 2
出


A
A 1
出

HERE...
THERE IS A 100% CHANCE OF NO WALL.
THEN I WILL HAVE SOLVED THE LABYRINTH.
I'LL SAY B2 NEXT...
BAKU-KUN
.....
I'LL RETURN IT TO YOU.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IN FRONT OF ME IS A DOOR.
THE FINAL DOOR.
HAVING ELIMINATED THE UNPREDICTABLE ELEMENTS,
WHAT I HOLD IS THE TRUE ROAD TO ORDER.

THE MEMORY OF THE "SURPASSING THE LEADER" GAME.

...RETURNED GOODS... YUKKII.
I REFUSE...

YOU REFUSE RETURNED GOODS?
THE DAY THAT YOU BETTED IS LIKE CHEAP, DAMAGED GOODS.
...GOING TO BE A PROBLEM, BAKU-KUN.
THAT'S...
IT'S A MEMORY NATURALLY BEFITTING OF YOU.
KADOKURA-SAN.
Chapter 102: The Grim Reaper Has Descended

IT'S
B2.
A
B
C

BAKU-KUN...

KAKEROU WILL PROBABLY CARRY OUT THE COLLECTION OF HIS LIFE AFTER THE GAME ENDS.

KADO-KURA-SAN GAVE OFF A STRANGE ATMOSPH-ERE...

...AFTER THE SECOND ROUND ENDED,

THE IDENTITY OF THE CORPSE IS A COM-PANION OF KAJI, THE PERPETRA-TOR OF THE *ABANDONED HOUSE MURDER"...

HE WAS AN ACCOMPLICE IN THE MURDER,

BUT BECAUSE OF INTERNAL DISCORD WHILE RUNNING AWAY, HE WAS KILLED BY KAJI.

...THE MAIN CULPRIT IS ALSO ARRESTED SHORTLY AFTER.

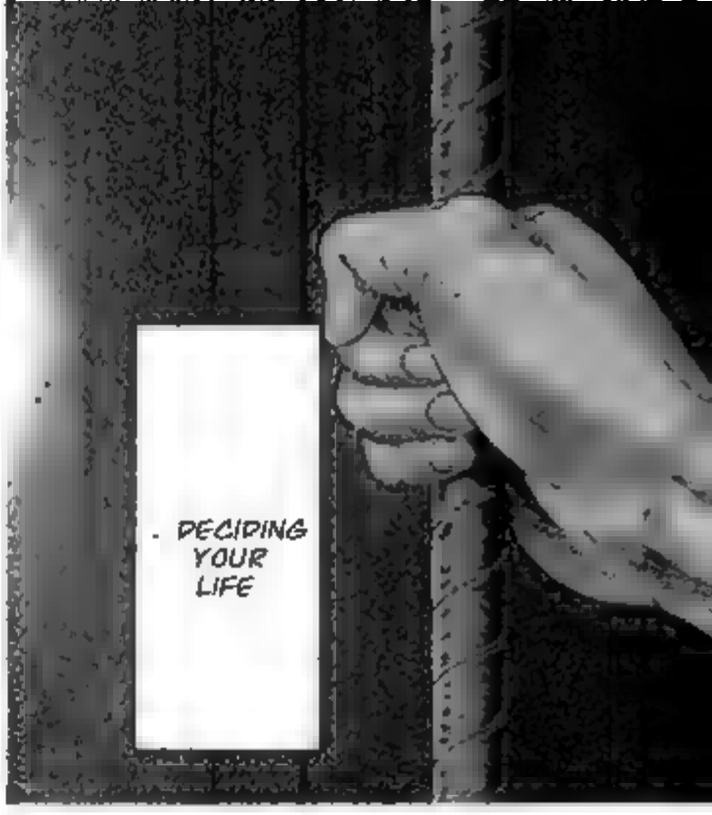
APRIL 9TH

I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT I WAS CHARGED A MILLION FOR,

BUT YOU'LL BE FOUND AS A CORPSE AFTER THIS... THE SCENARIO WILL GO LIKE THIS.

ORDER!
ANT!
ORDER OF JUSTICE DOES NOT WAVER!
HOW'S THAT? ISN'T IT A NICE SCENARIO?
... I'S BECAUSE YOU JEOPAR-DIZED ORDER...
ANT! ANT! ANT!
PER-HAPS...
EVERY-ONE IS LIKE THIS...
ANT! YOU'RE JUST AN ANT!

IN OTHER WORDS,
DETERMINING THE DESTINATION YOURSELF.


. DECIDING YOUR LIFE

...GIVEN ONLY A FEW TIMES IN LIFE
CHANCES TO OPEN THAT DOOR ARE...

AND THEN...

ONCE.
ONLY ONCE.

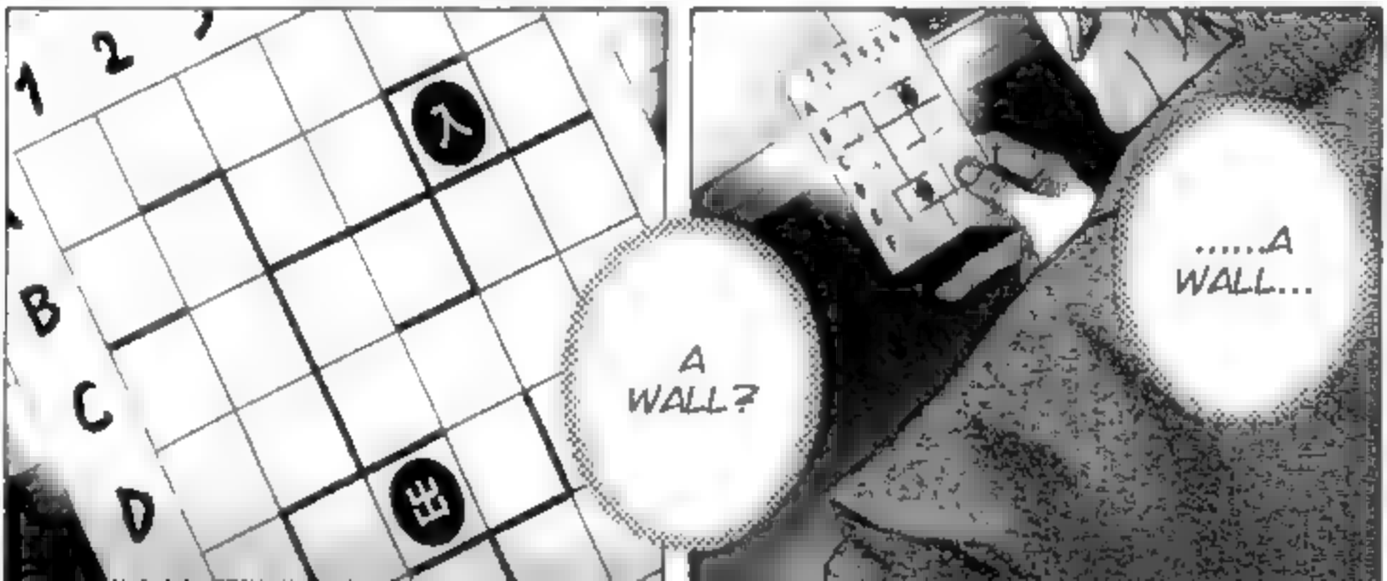
IT WILL VANISH.
QUICK-LY...
...AND FOREVER.
...IT'S THE EXIT...
ANT.
DIE ANT.

THERE IS A WALL.
YUKIIDE-SAMA.

AH...
ANT...
.....
HUH?!

A WALL....
....A WALL?

HUH?


1 2
B
C
D
A WALL?
.....A WALL...

FROM THIS FLIPPED POSITION,
HIS ROUTE IS THE ONLY PATH TO THE EXIT... THE REST ARE WALLS...
THIS MEANS ALL THE SIDES ARE WALLS.

A VIOLATION OF THE RULES...
THE EXIT IS ENCLOSED!!
.....
TURN

NO...
WHICH FOLLOWS THE RULES. THERE IS NO VIOLATION OF THE RULES.

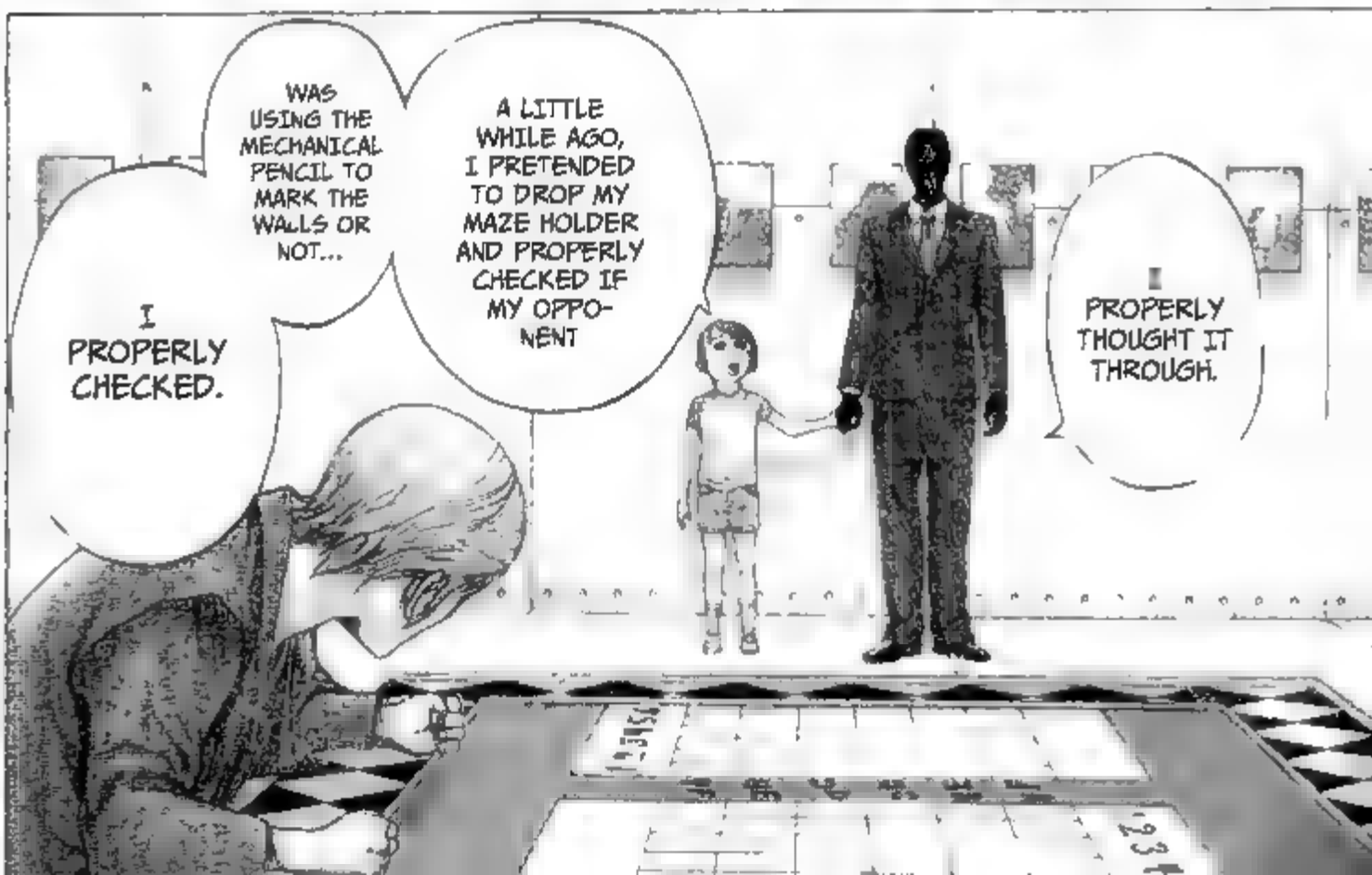
THERE IS A WALL YUKIIDE-SAMA.
IT'S A FINE LABY-RINTH

THIS IS A MAZE... NOT A LABYRINTH.
THERE IS NO EXIT.
IF THERE IS NO EXIT...
DISORDER...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
CHAOS? ...HOW FRIGHTENING.
WHAT IS THIS GUY...
THIS GUY...
THERE IS NO ORDER.

WHAT KIND OF FACE...
IS HE MAKING.

WHY?
...WH...
WHY...

!
RIGHT, DAD?
WHY? I DID IT PROPER-LY,


I PROPERLY CHECKED.
WAS USING THE MECHANICAL PENCIL TO MARK THE WALLS OR NOT...
A LITTLE WHILE AGO, I PRETENDED TO DROP MY MAZE HOLDER AND PROPERLY CHECKED IF MY OPPO-NENT
I PROPERLY THOUGHT IT THROUGH.

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SHEET.
I NOTICED THOSE MECHANICAL PENCIL-WRITTEN LABYRINTHS IN THE FIRST ROUND.
JUST AS I THOJGHT,
FOR THIS THIRD ROJND, THAT PERSON MARKED THE WALLS USING A MECHANICAL PENCIL.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT PERSON IS THINKING... BUT...
AND MAY USE THE REMAINING ONE IN THE THIRD ROUND
MAYBE THAT PERSON WROTE TWO SHEETS WITH A MECHANICAL PENCIL IN ADVANCE,
SO I SUPPRESSED MY FEAR, AND SLIPPED AND PRETENDED TO MAKE A MISTAKE.
I'M USED TO THIS GAME, AFTER ALL...
I KNOW THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWO LABYRINTHS WRITTEN WITH A MECHANICAL PENCIL.
SEEING WHAT HE HAD IN HIS HANDS AND WITH THE TIME HE HAD, HE COULD'VE ONLY WRITTEN UP TO TWO SHEETS.
WITH THE PURPOSE OF KEEPING THE REMAINING ONE SHEET WRITTEN WITH A MECHANICAL PENCIL FROM BEING USED.
THIS WAS A BET.

IF HE TRIED TO USE HIS MECHANICAL PENCIL LABYRINTH WITHOUT IT BEING DISCARDED BY KADOKURA, THEN THAT WOULD MEAN...
AND IF BAKU-KUN...
YES...

AND I WAS SUPPOSED TO WIN WITHOUT ANY TRICKS.
THE TRICK WAS EXPOSED.

!
IS NOT RIGHT. SOMETHING LIKE THIS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.
DAD... AS I THOUGHT... THIS...
...AND YET... HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
BUT BAKU-KUN DIDN'T DO THAT.
HE WROTE HIS LABYRINTH WITH THE OIL-BASED PEN WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS... THAT'S A CERTAINTY

I TRIED...

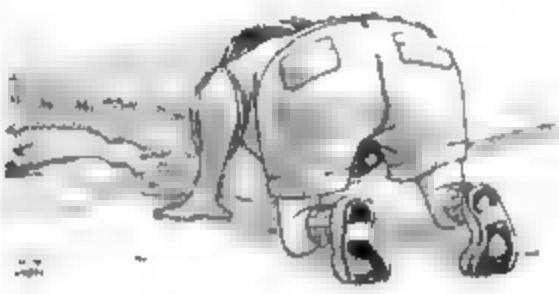
YOU KNOW, DAD...

AT THAT TIME, I TRIED MY BEST.

ANT.....

THAT LONELY LITTLE ANT...

I TRIED...



MY VERY BEST...

BUT... THE ANT...

SOB

唯唯

Chapter 103:
The Corrupted Labyrinth
THAT'S RIGHT.

I...
I REMEMBER NOW.
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED
I ACTUALLY.
B6
KADOKURA-SAN.
!

YES
THERE IS NO WALL, BAKU-SAMA.
.....
B6...

UGH...!
HEH

I FEEL LIKE I CAN DO THIS REAL SMOOTHLY.
OH, NEXT IS A6, KADOKURA-SAN.
CRYING AFTER DROOLING... YUKKII, YOU MJST REALLY LIKE...
...DRIBB-LING OJT LIQJID.

WELL... I GUESS I WOULDN'T GET LOST...
...IN SUCH A TWISTED AND ROTTEN LABYRINTH...
...IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THERE IS NO WALL, BAKU-SAMA.
YES...

EVEN THOUGH I...
BUMPED INTO A WALL...

B6...
...B6...

A PATH WITHOUT A WALL...
BAKU-KUN IS ABLE TO GO THROUGH THIS FLIPPED ROUTE...

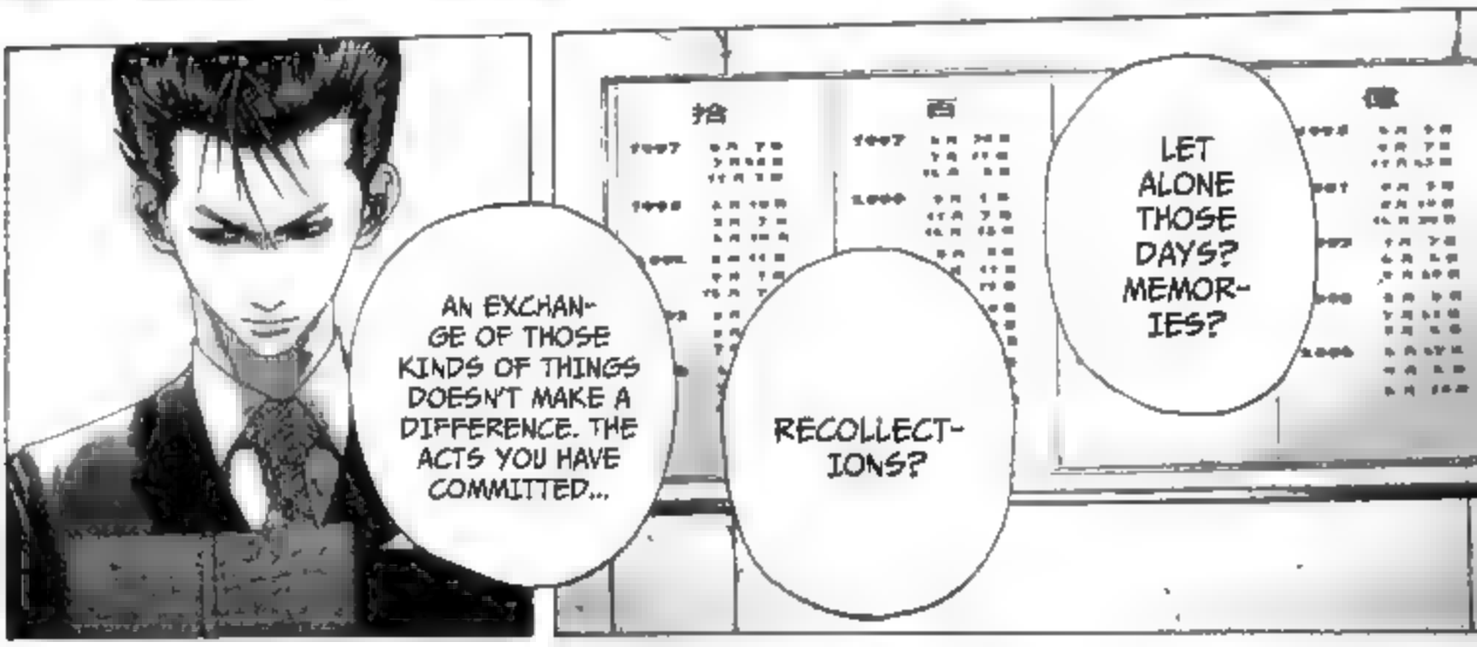
THEN THERE'S NO ORDER IN THIS AT ALL!
HOW DISGRACEFUL.

A5

YES
THERE IS NO WALL.
IF ORDER IS A GOOD...
THAT GOOD IS BORN FROM EVIL.
ON THE OTHER HAND,
ORDER IS A GOOD THAT IS BORN FROM EVIL.

EVIL THAT IS BORN FROM GOOD IS JUST PLAIN BAD.
IT'S JUST A DISGRACE... YUKKII.

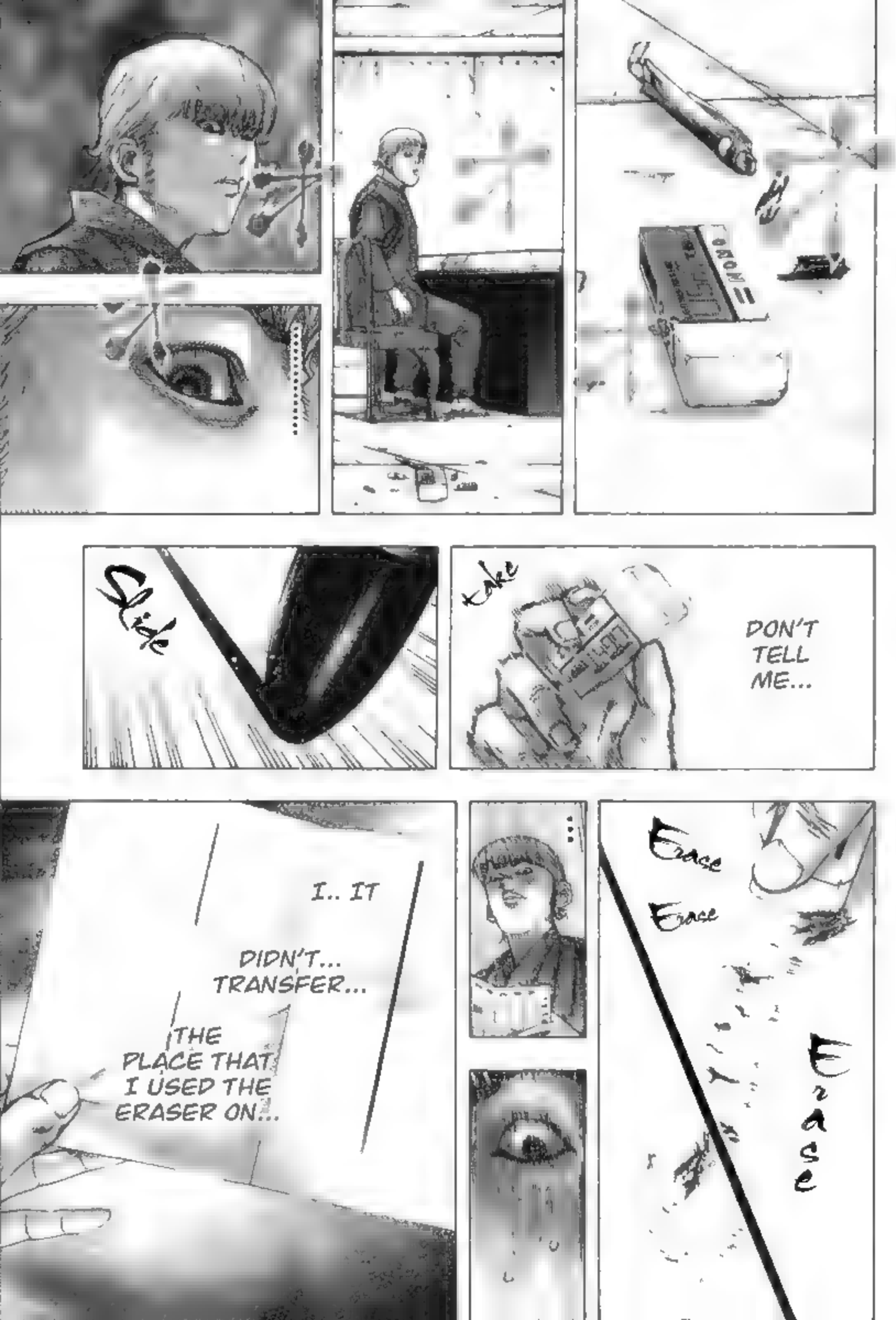
YOU ARE A DISGRACE.


AN EXCHANGE OF THOSE KINDS OF THINGS DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THE ACTS YOU HAVE COMMITTED...
RECOLLECTIONS?
LET ALONE THOSE DAYS? MEMORIES?

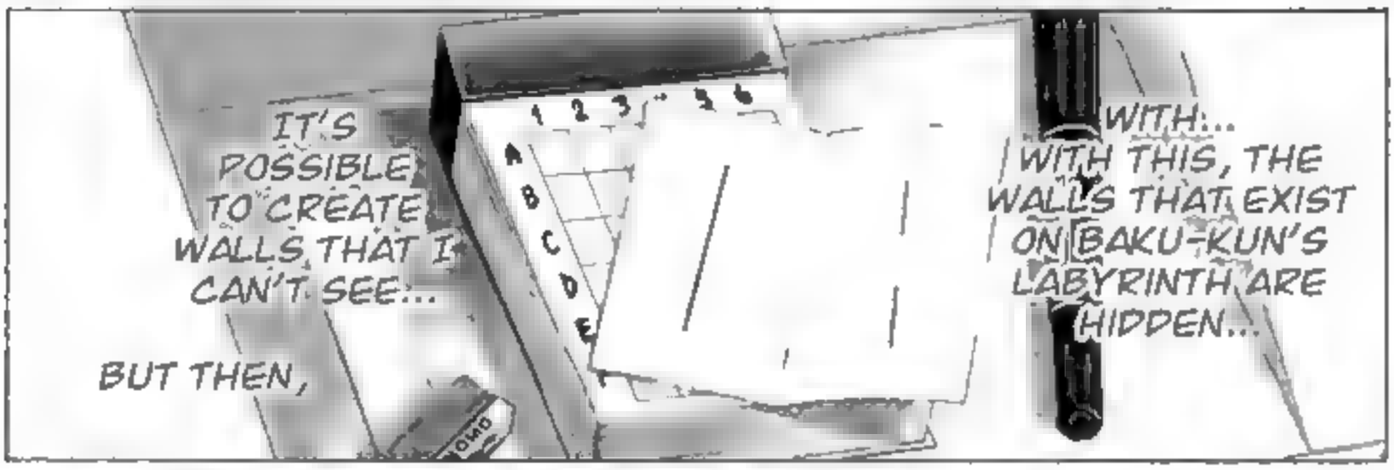
WON'T DISAPPEAR?
THEY WON'T DISAPPEAR? UNLIKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS..?

THEY WON'T DISAPPEAR... YUKKII.

WON'T DISAPPEAR, UNLIKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS.


Side
Take
DON'T TELL ME...
I.. IT
DIDN'T... TRANSFER...
THE PLACE THAT I USED THE ERASER ON...
Erase
Erase
Erase

BECAUSE THE OIL IS GONE, THE WALLS AREN'T TRANSFERRED TO MY SHEET...
THE ERASER CHANGES THE COMPOSITION OF THE INK?
USING THE ERASER...
THE WALLS CAN BE KEPT FROM BEING TRANSFERRED...?


IT'S POSSIBLE TO CREATE WALLS THAT I CAN'T SEE...
BUT THEN,
WITH...
WITH THIS, THE WALLS THAT EXIST ON BAKU-KUN'S LABYRINTH ARE HIDDEN...

ON THE LABYRINTH IN MY HAND.
...AND YET, THERE ARE 20 WALLS

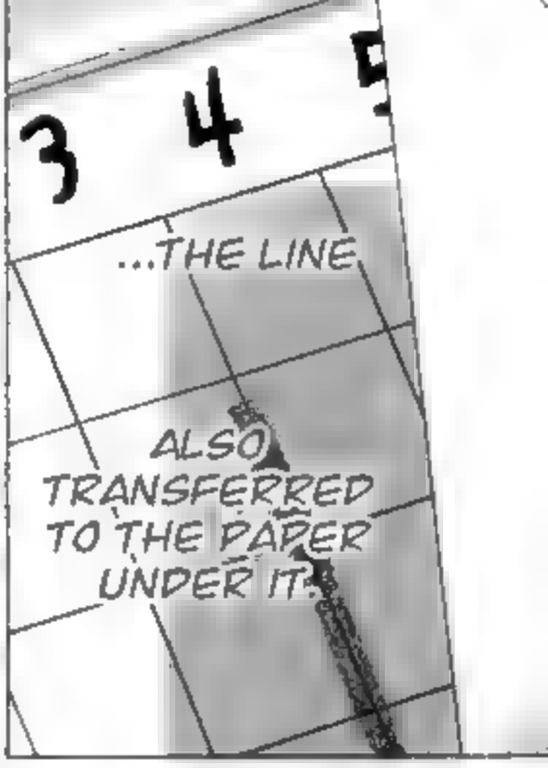
THERE SHOULDN'T BE 20 WALLS ON MY LABYRINTH.

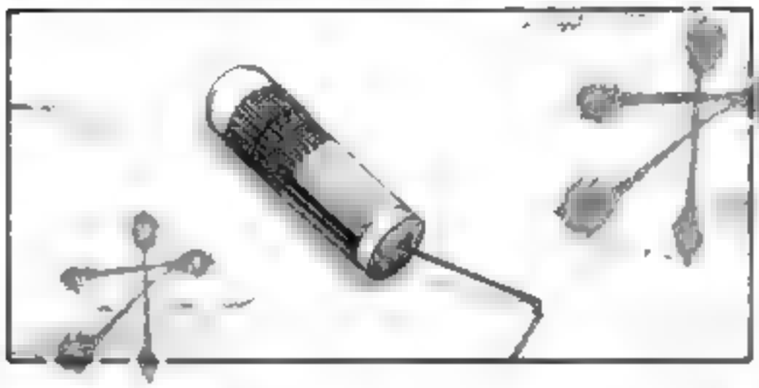
SINCE THE ERASED WALLS AREN'T TRANSFERRED,
THERE SHOULD BE LESS THAN 20 WALLS ON MY LABYRINTH.

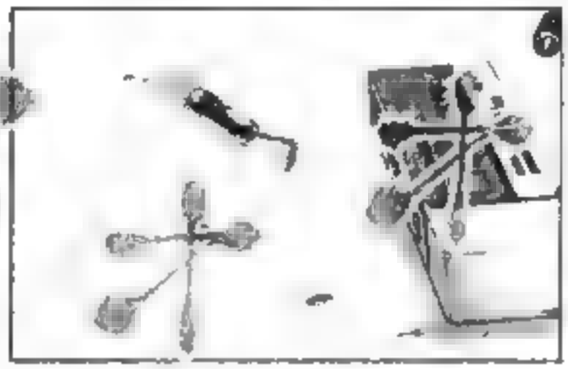
BASED ON KADOKURA-SAN'S PERSONALITY... IF BAKU-KUN VIOLATED THE RULES BY MARKING MORE THAN 20 WALLS, HE WOULDN'T HAVE STAYED SILENT...
.....
B1
YES
THERE IS NO WALL.
B2
WHAT AM I THINKING...
...HA...
.....
...THIS...
1 2 3
A
B
C
D
E
F
THIS IS?
3 2 1
.....
?
BAKU-KUN GAVE ME BOTH THE ERASER AND THE MECHANICAL PENCIL BEFORE THE SECOND ROUND...
AND BESIDES... SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

SO THAT'S WHAT...
HAPPENED.

I...
...GET
IT...

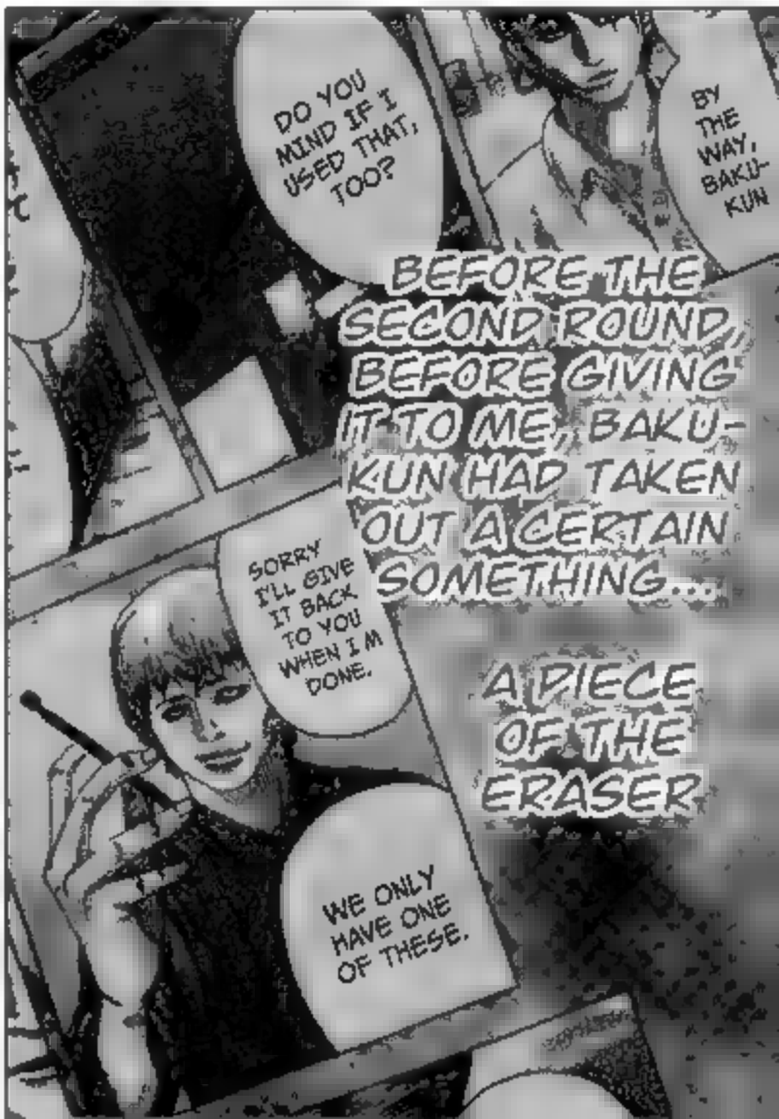

3 4 5
...THE LINE
ALSO TRANSFERRED TO THE PAPER UNDER IT.

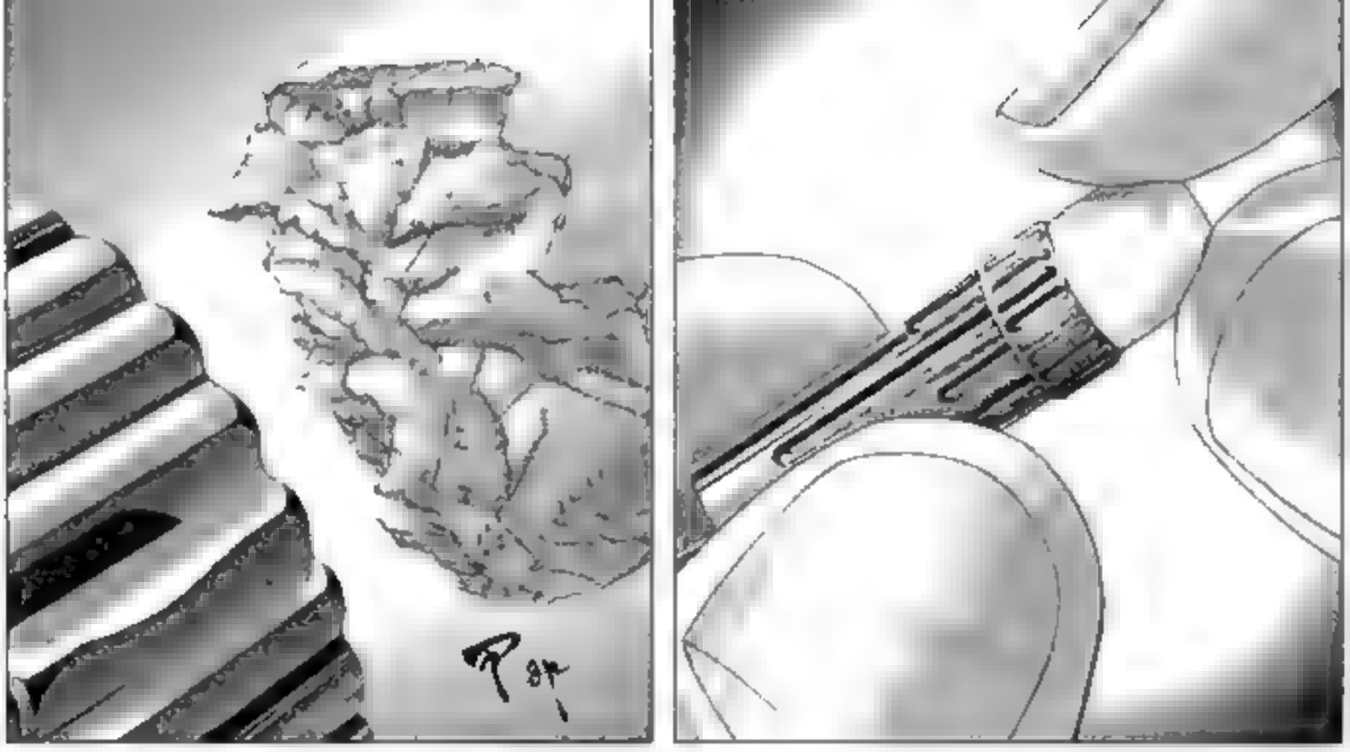




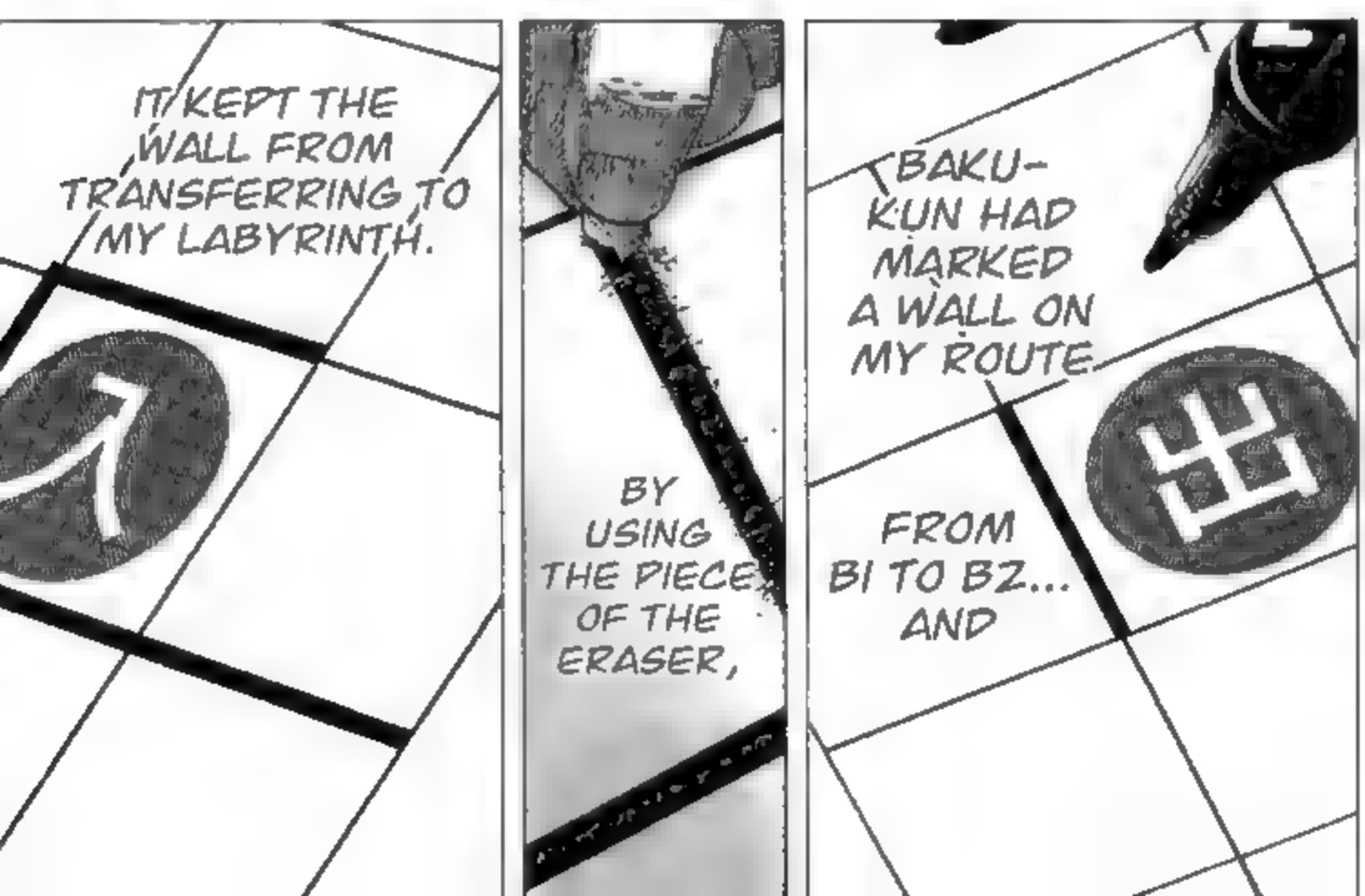
A PIECE...
...BUT THERE IS NO SIGN OF THAT IN THIS ERASER.

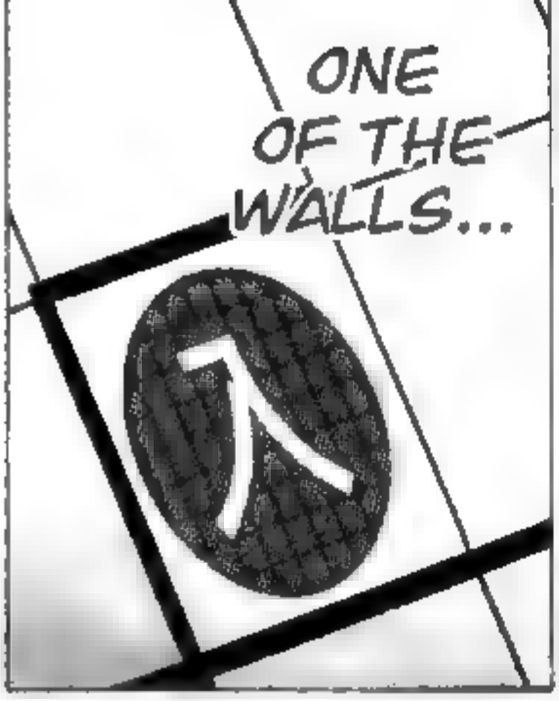
THEN... THE ERASER ON THE MECHANICAL PENCIL?


DO YOU MIND IF I USED THAT, TOO?
BY THE WAY, BAKU-KUN
BEFORE THE SECOND ROUND, BEFORE GIVING IT TO ME, BAKU-KUN HAD TAKEN OUT A CERTAIN SOMETHING...
SORRY I'LL GIVE IT BACK TO YOU WHEN I'M DONE.
A PIECE OF THE ERASER
WE ONLY HAVE ONE OF THESE.

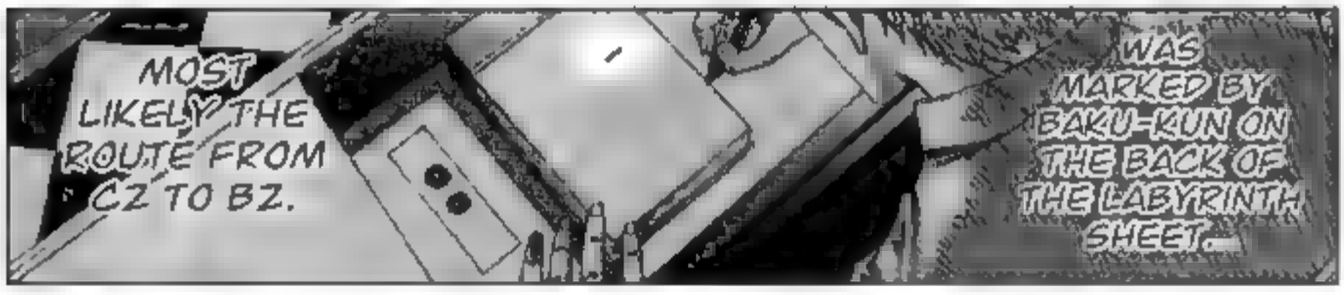


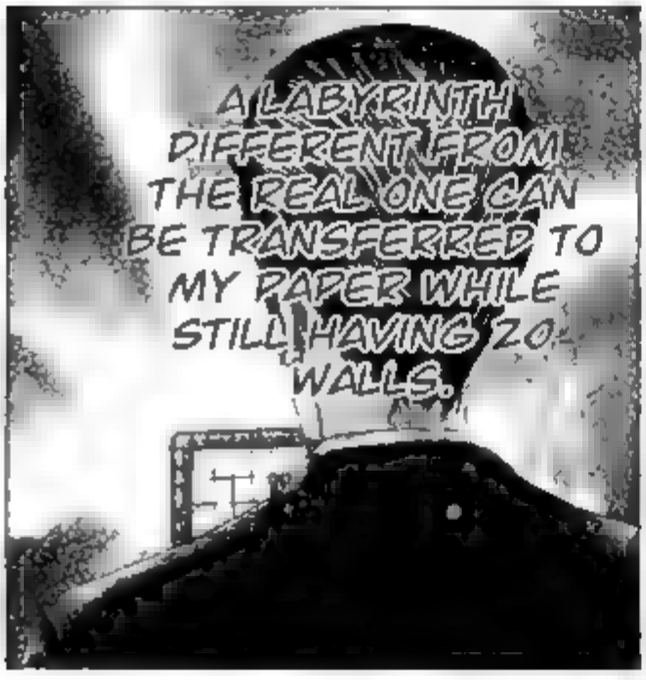
A... AMAZING... A THOROUGH TRICK THAT DOESN'T RAISE THE SLIGHTEST SUSPICION...
THE BOTTOM IS TORN...
AS I THOUGHT, IT'S THIS ONE...


IT KEPT THE WALL FROM TRANSFERRING TO MY LABYRINTH.
BY USING THE PIECE OF THE ERASER,
BAKU-KUN HAD MARKED A WALL ON MY ROUTE
FROM B1 TO B2... AND

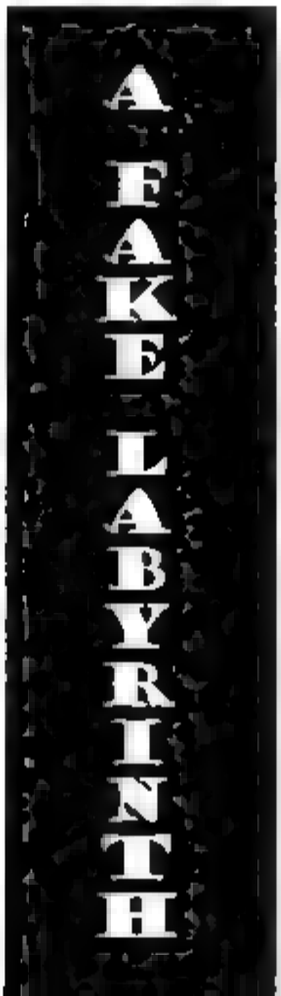

ONE OF THE WALLS...

4 5 6
AND THE THREE WALLS THAT SURROUND THE ENTRANCE OF MY LABYRINTH.
AMONG THESE THREE,

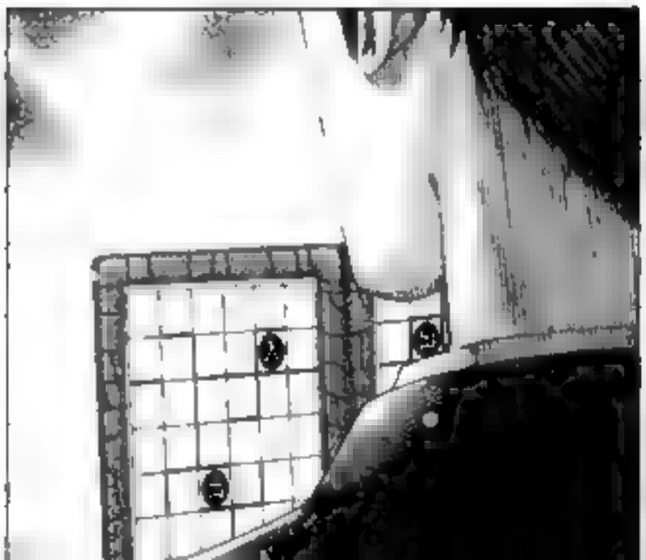

MOST LIKELY THE ROUTE FROM CZ TO BZ.
WAS MARKED BY BAKU-KUN ON THE BACK OF THE LABYRINTH SHEET.


A LABYRINTH DIFFERENT FROM THE REAL ONE CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO MY PAPER WHILE STILL HAVING 20 WALLS.

TRANSFERED TO MY LABY-RINTH...
THIS

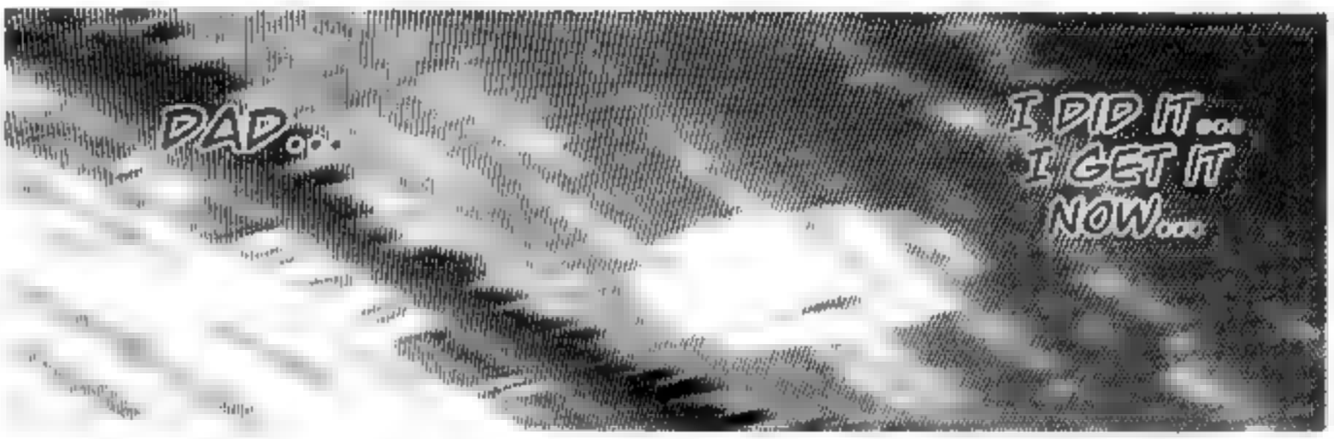

A FAKE LABYRINTH

YES... THEN THIS IS...



POSSIBLE

THIS IS IT.
A PATH...
AN ANSWER
EXISTS.

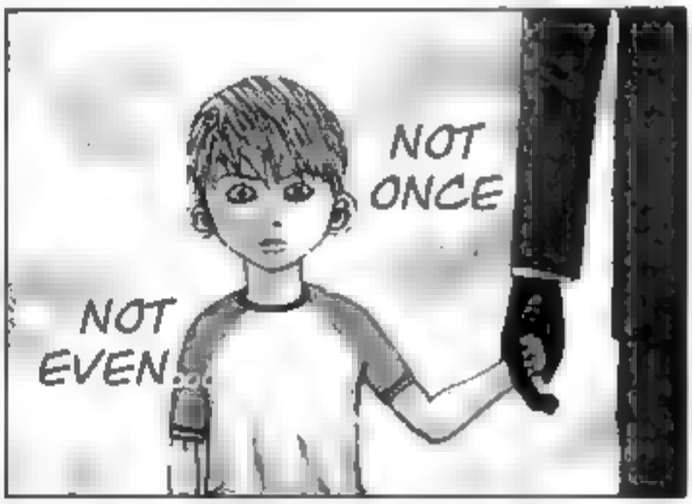

DAD...
I DID IT... I GET IT NOW...

E3... YES
THERE IS NO WALL... AND FOR THE THIRD ROUND OF LABY-RINTH...
THE... LABY... RINTH...
I DID IT...
I SOLVED IT AGAIN
AGAIN.
THE LABY-RINTH.

.....
I...
BAKU-SAMA IS THE VICTOR.
YUKKII
YES... I ALREADY KNOW.
.....
THAT'S NOT RIGHT... YOU...

HAVE I EVER SOLVED A LABYRINTH.
NOT EVEN UP UNTIL NOW,
HAVE I EVER KEPT ORDER.
NOT ONCE,

ONCE...
HAVE I EVER SAVED ANYONE.
...NOT EVEN... AN ANT.

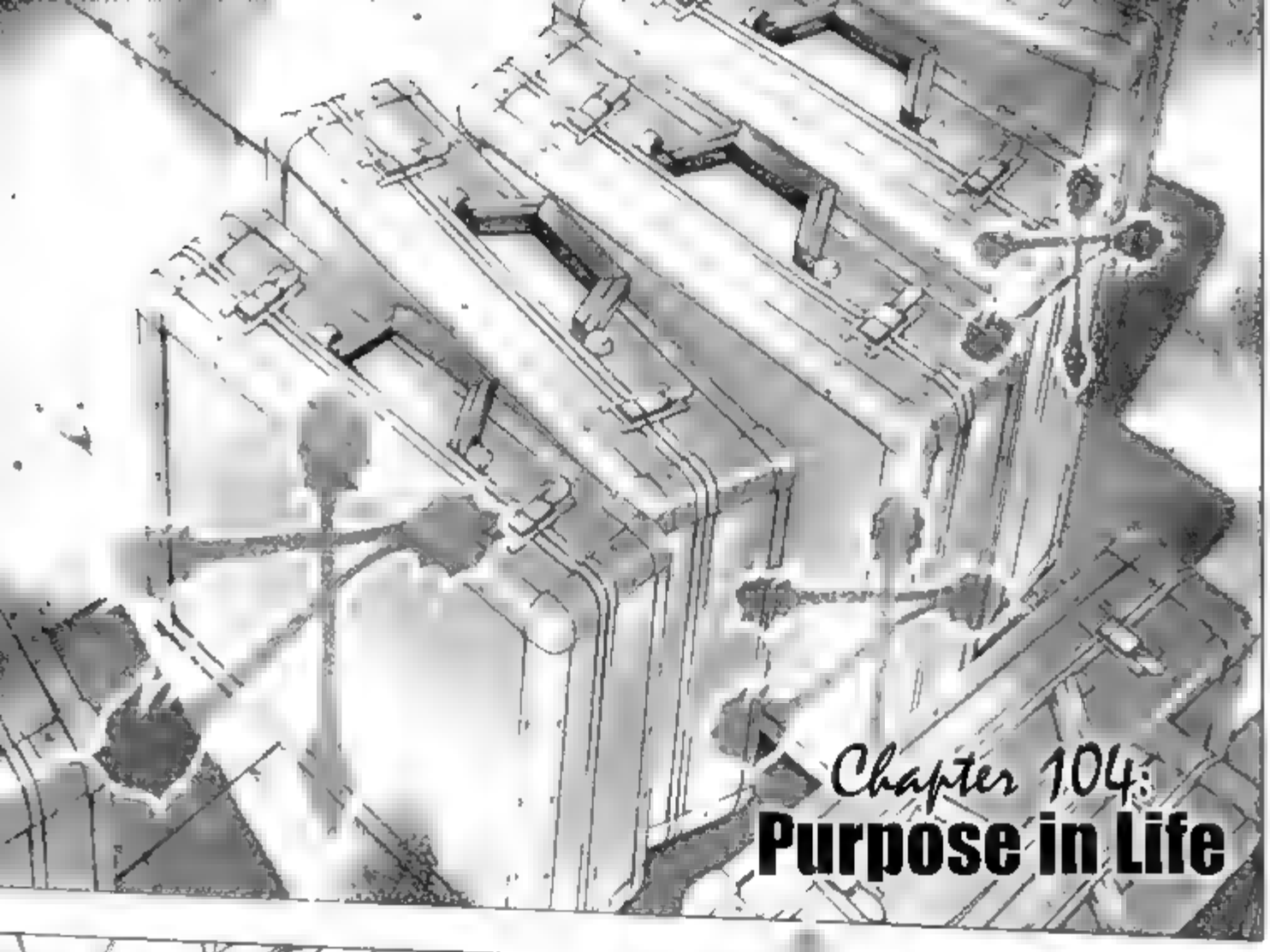

NOT ONCE
NOT EVEN...

YUKKII IS...

YOU'RE RIGHT, BAKU-KUN... YES...
I'M...
I'M...

A
LIAR.
1 2 3 4

噬神



Chapter 104: Purpose in Life

KAJI-SAMA'S ALIBI ON NOVEMBER 5, 2004, AND BAKU-SAMA'S ALIBI ON APRIL 9, 2001.

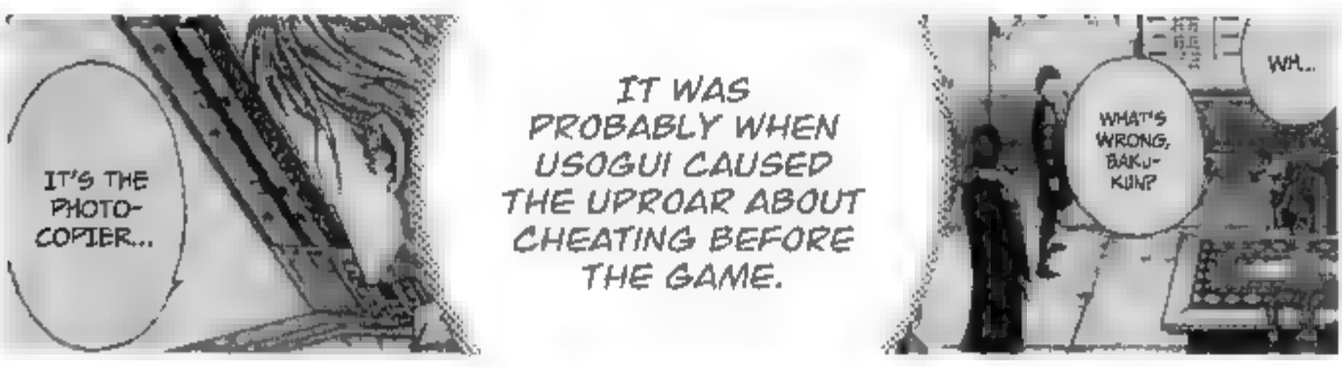
WE WILL NOT BE CARRYING OUT THE COLLECTION OF THESE DATES ANYMORE.

I HAVE ALREADY CHECKED.

PLEASE ACCEPT IT, BAKU-SAMA.

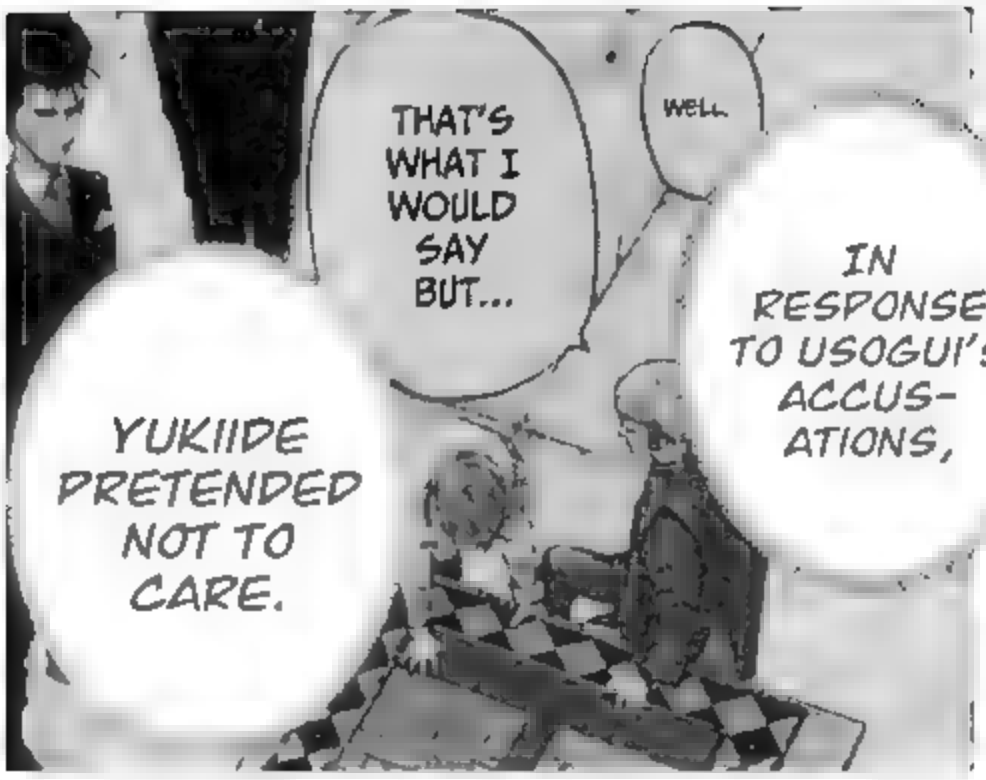
AND...

THIS TRICK, WHICH USED THE ERASER..
TO PERFORM THIS TRICK, THAT ITEM SHOULD HAVE BEEN NECESSARY
WITH THAT, THIS GAME WILL BE CLOSED FOR NOW.
THE PEOPLE AMONG YUKIIDE-SAMA'S ACQUAINTANCES WHO KNOW OF THIS GAME WILL BE REVEALED.


IT'S THE PHOTO-COPIER...
IT WAS PROBABLY WHEN USOGUI CAUSED THE UPROAR ABOUT CHEATING BEFORE THE GAME.
WH..
WHAT'S WRONG, BAKU-KUN?

...WAS SUDDENLY SUSPECTED OF POSSIBLY CHEATING SOMEHOW.
MAY HAVE BEEN SENT TO YOU.
A COPY OF MY LABY-RINTH...
YUKIIDE, WHO WAS PLAYING THE RICH, NICE GUY TO TRAP USOGUI,

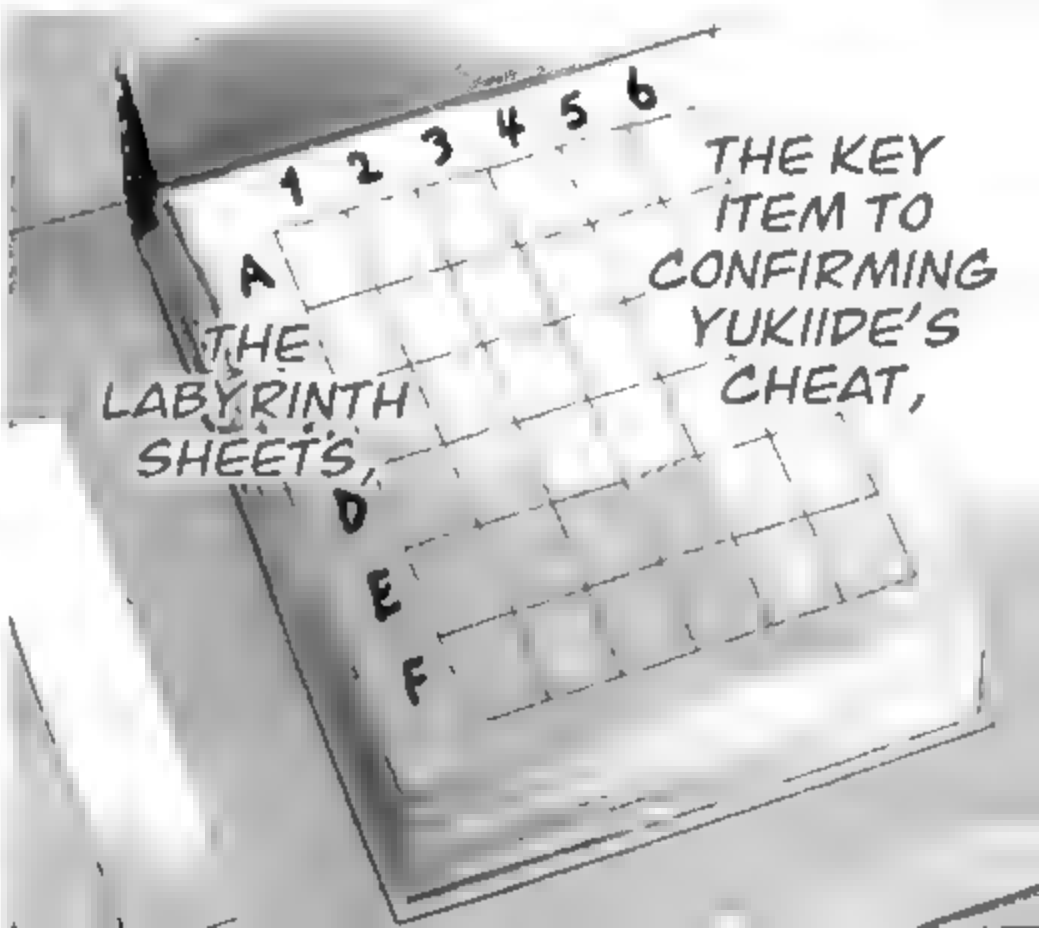
"PIN THE CRIME ON HIM"... THIS WAS HIS OBJECTIVE.
YUKIIDE NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION TO LET THEM LEAVE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
TO THE SUCKERS WHO CAME FOR A "NO MONEY" GAMBLE,
YUKIIDE REFRAINED FROM DOING ANYTHING AGAINST USOGUI'S PROFANE ACTIONS...
...IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE GAME.
I... J... JUST... WANT TO...
TO ACCOMPLISH THAT, DESPITE BEING THE ONE WITH MORE MONEY AND POWER,
MAKE SURE...
HEY!
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS THE ONE WITH A HIGHER STANDING, YUKIIDE HAD...
HONESTLY, I'M DISAP-POINTED.
SCREW THE TRUST BETWEEN US NOW. IT NO LONGER EXISTS.

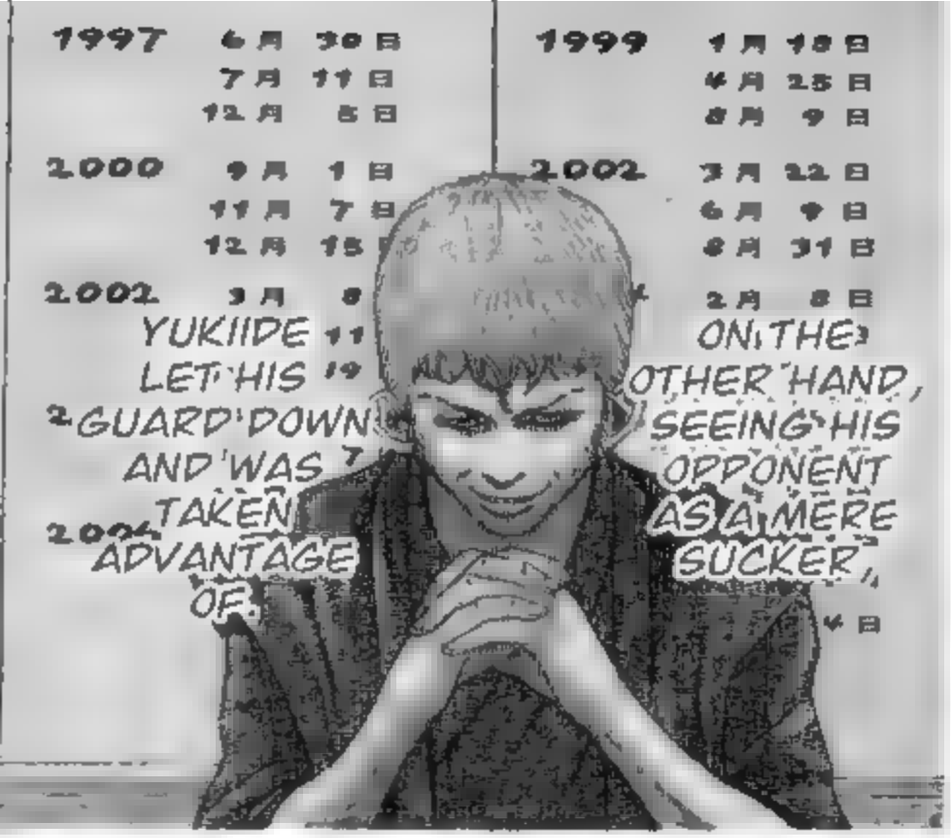

YUKIIDE PRETENDED NOT TO CARE.
THAT'S WHAT I WOULD SAY BUT...
WELL
IN RESPONSE TO USOGUI'S ACCUS-ATIONS,

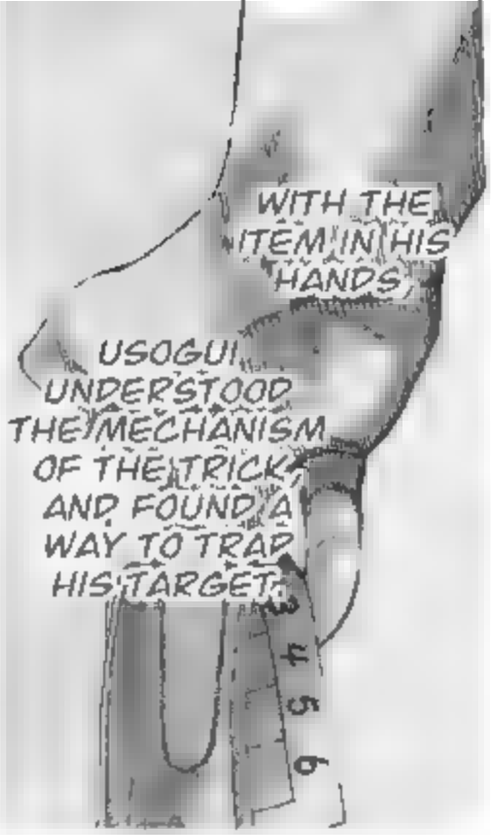
A CRITICAL WEAKNESS.

AND IN THAT MOMENT,
USOGUI TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THAT BY USING SOME OF HIS OWN THEATRICS...

...WERE DARINGLY STOLEN BY USOGUI.


1 2 3 4 5 6
A
D
E
F
THE LABYRINTH SHEETS,
THE KEY ITEM TO CONFIRMING YUKIIDE'S CHEAT,


1997 6月 30日
7月 11日
12月 5日
2000 9月 1日
11月 7日
12月 15日
2002 3月 8日
YUKIIDE LET HIS GUARD DOWN AND WAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF.
1999 1月 18日
4月 25日
8月 9日
2002 3月 22日
6月 9日
8月 31日
2月 8日
ON THE OTHER HAND, SEEING HIS OPPONENT AS A MERE SUCKER,
4日


WITH THE ITEM IN HIS HANDS,
USOGUI UNDERSTOOD THE MECHANISM OF THE TRICK, AND FOUND A WAY TO TRAP HIS TARGET.

THE OPPONENT WAS...
BECAUSE IN A WORLD OF VICTORY OR DEFEAT,
HE WAS DESTINED TO LOSE, AND WAS DEFEATED IN THE END,

...NOT A MERE SUCKER.

ONE PERSON.
.....
I ONLY KNOW OF ONE PERSON.
ON THAT NIGHT...
.....
HE WAS STAND-ING.
ONE NIGHT I WAS AWAKE DESPAIRING OVER MY CIRCUM-STANCES...

WE CAN'T HAVE THIS...
.....

HEY.
IT'S ME... DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
.....

FOR KAORU-KUN TO BE IN THIS STATE...
HOW PITIFUL...

A FORMER COLLEAGUE OF MY FATHER,
WHOM I HAD ACQUAINTED MYSELF WITH A FEW TIMES IN THE PAST.

AMAKO SEIICHI FROM THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
HE WAS...

KAORU-KUN.
MISCONDUCT BY THE POLICE HAS COME INTO QUESTION.
SUPERINTENDENT YUKIDE IS CURRENTLY BEING INTERROGATED.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
I THINK HE WAS TRYING TO SAVE ME.

YOUR FATHER... YUKIIDE-SAN, I KNOW WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION HE HAS BEEN GIVING YOU.
BUT... THINK THROUGH THIS CARE-FULLY.
AS A RESULT, YOUR PARENTS ENDED UP BEING CHARGED DESPITE BEING INNOCENT.
.....

SO, I AM ALSO TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR PARENT'S SITUA-TIONS DESPITE MY LACK OF POWER... THAT'S WHY KAORU-KUN...
...IS NOT RIGHT.
SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

A LETTER...
FROM MY FATHER.

AT THAT TIME AND EVEN AFTER THAT, I WAS FOOLISH.

THIS IS...
.....

!
YUKIDE-SAN... YOU OF ALL PEOPLE...
HE HAD THE THOUGHT OF ENTRUSTING THIS GAMBLE TO ME AFTER I RECOVERED.
DOING SO WOULD HELP THEM WITH REDUCING THEIR PRISON TERMS.
IT TALKED ABOUT HOW BEFORE MY FATHER'S DOWNFALL,
HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED WITH THIS GAMBLE
I DIDN'T LEND MY EARS TO HIS WORDS, AND ESCAPED FROM REALITY.
I WANTED TO SETTLE ON AN EMOTION I COULD CALM MYSELF ON.
GET INVOLVED WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
YOU MUSTN'T
DON'T DO THIS, KAORU-KUN!
I ENDED UP SURRENDERING MYSELF TO RELIEF BY THE NAME OF ORDER.
I'LL DO IT.
AMAKO-SAN,
!

AND THE ONLY NAME OF THE PERSON...

THE STORY BEHIND THIS GAMBLE,

THIS IS...

HIM... IT WAS HIM... YES...

THAT I KNOW OF FROM THE POLICE IS AMAKO SEIICHI.

Pull

WELL THEN... WITHOUT FURTHER ADO,

WITH THIS, THE KAKEROU GAME HAS ENDED.

.....

THIS SHOULD BE SATISFAC-TORY, BAKU-SAMA.

I WILL NOW...
COMMENCE THE COLLEC-TION.

LEADER,
DO YOU REMEMBER?

I REMEMBER. I MET HIM LAST TIME.
.....
DMMM.
OH.
IT WAS USOGUI.. I THINK.

THE INCIDENT ON APRIL 9, 2001,
THE NAME OF YOUR OPPONENT ON "SURPASSING THE LEADER"?

YUKIIDE
KAORU.
PEOPLE ARE...
NO, IT IS NOT.
YOUR OPPONENT'S NAME WAS...
OH.
OKAY.
.....
PLEASE RELAX THE MUSCLES IN YOUR NECK. I WILL SEND YOU OFF...
...IN AN INSTANT.
UNBEAR-ABLY STRONG.
BUT IF WHAT THEY WANT IN THEIR HANDS IS TOO STRONG,

GEEZ,
KADOKURA-SAN.
THEY GET OBSESSED WITH THEIR THOUGHTS
AND FORGET WHAT THEY ORIGIN-ALLY WANTED.
...IN A LABYRINTH WITHOUT AN EXIT FOR ETERNITY.
AND... THEY CONTIN-UE TO WANDER..
!
Freeze
ISN'T YUKKII...

...PRETTY MUCH AL-READY DEAD?
BAKU-SAMA... I, KADOKURA YUUDAI...
.....

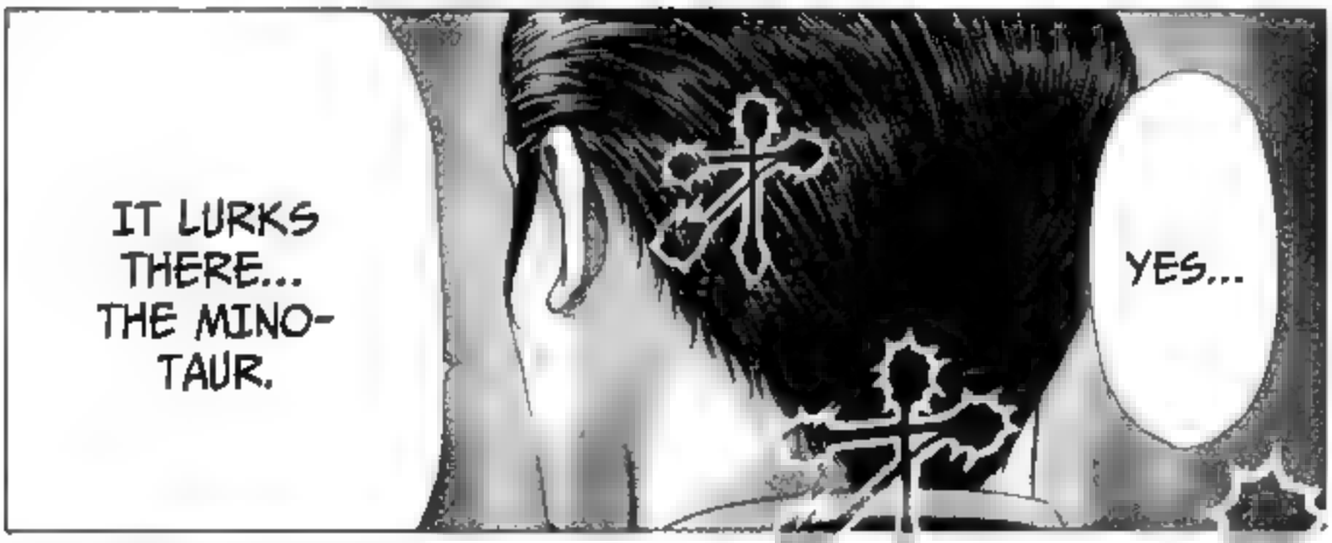
DON'T DISLIKE THAT JUDG-MENT.

WAS IT GREEK MYTHOLOGY?

. YES.

THE LEGEND OF THE LABYRINTH AT THE PALACE IN CRETE.

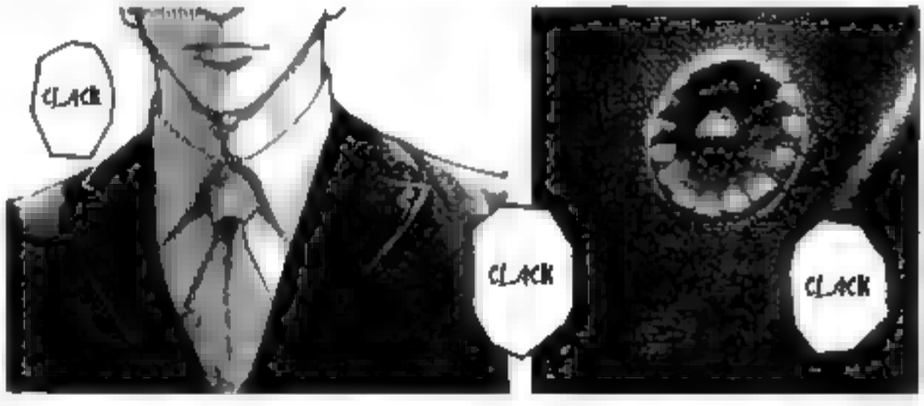
A... MONSTER...
THERE IS A MONSTER THAT EATS HUMAN FLESH.
IN THE LABY-RINTH,


IT LURKS THERE... THE MINO-TAUR.
YES...

TURN

CLACK
Chapter 105:
Lowlife

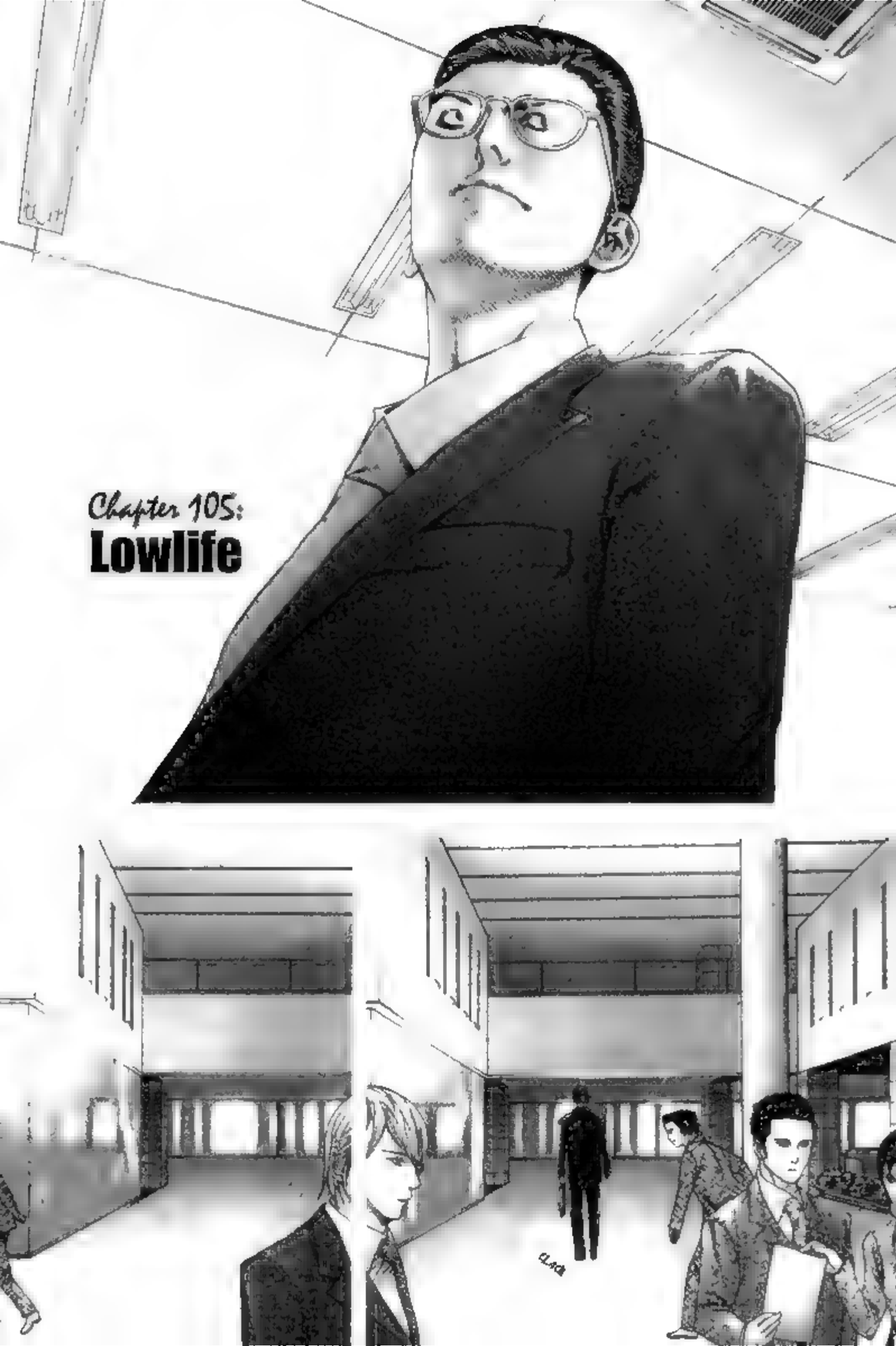
.....


CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

P...
PEE?

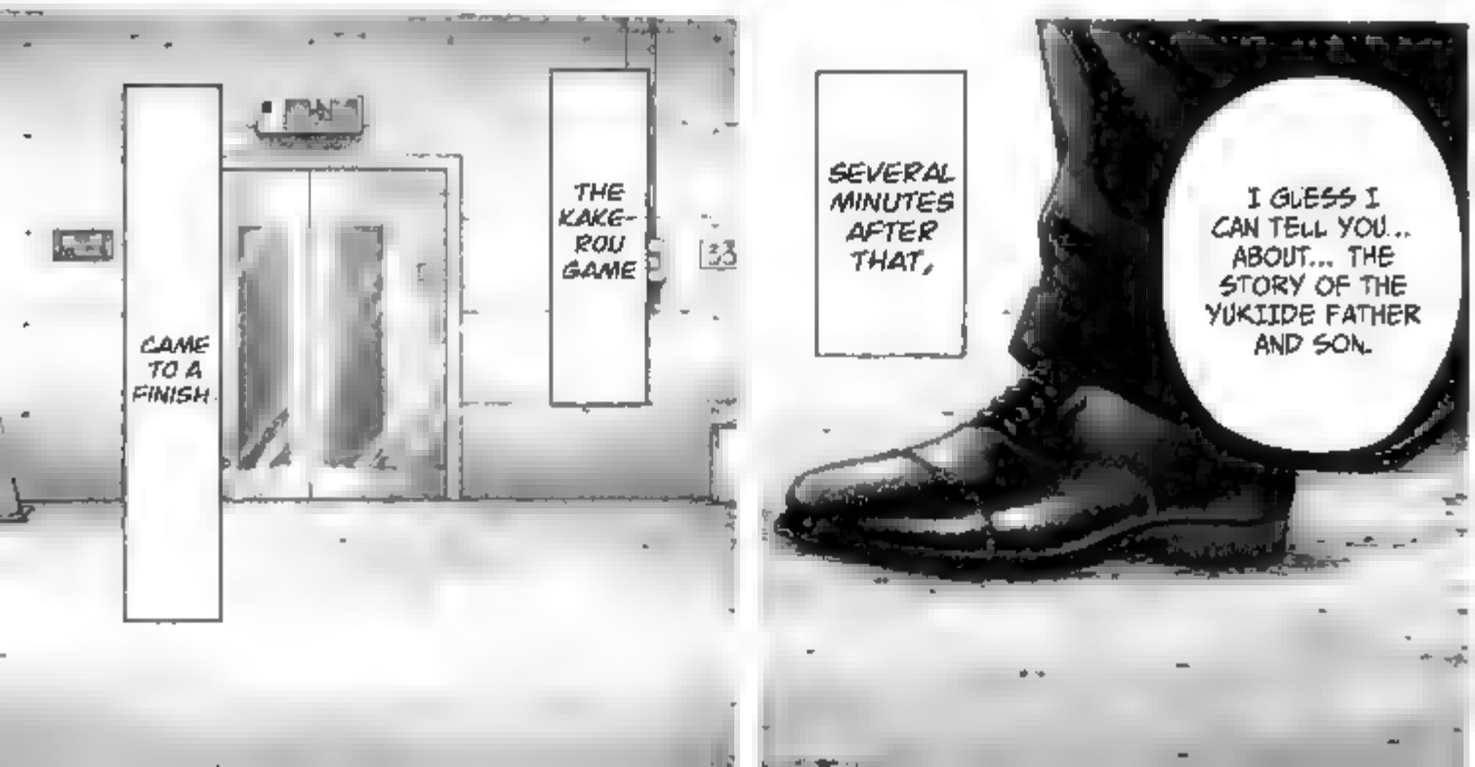
PEE... OH, THE WASH-ROOM?

I UNDERSTAND. NOW PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM HERE.
YES
YOU'RE KOBANA OF INVESTIGATION DIVISION 1?
...? WHAT IS IT?


Chapter 105:
Lowlife

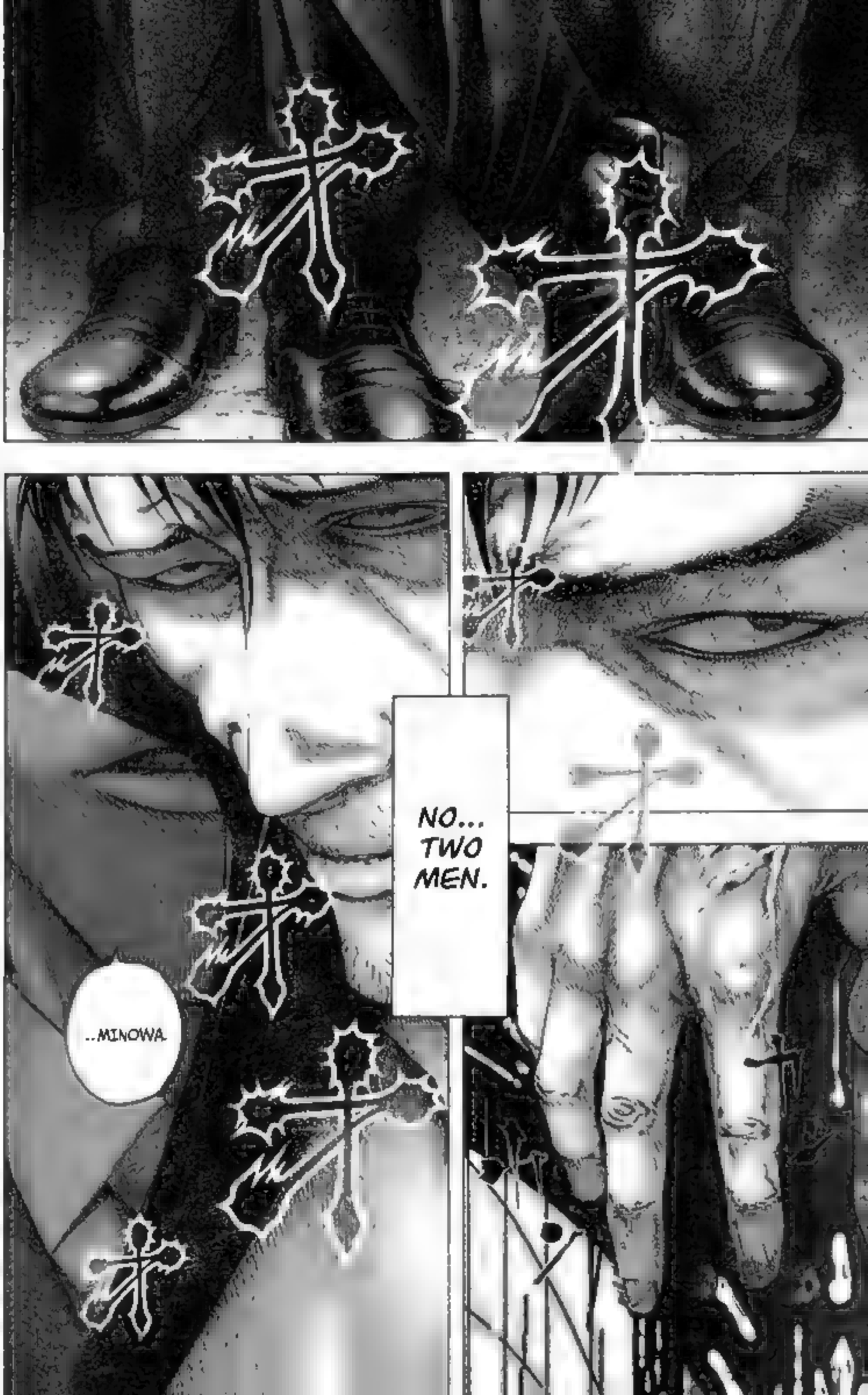
THIS ACT WE'RE INVOLVED WITH... ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT IT.
OF COURSE,
PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THIS DON'T HAVE A REASON TO AVOID EACH OTHER. YOU AND ME TOO, WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT AFTER ALL.
.....
I HEARD THE BASIC PREMISE FROM THAT PERSON, BUT
THE SUCKERS WHO GET CAUGHT IN THE NET,
WHAT KIND OF GUY ARE THEY UP AGAINST IN THIS GAMBLE?

SINCE WE'RE GOING TO BE ON LONG TERMS WITH EACH OTHER,
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU NEED TO KNOW... BUT, WELL,
.....
THE GUY DOING THIS GAMBLE...


CAME TO A FINISH.
THE KAKE-ROU GAME
SEVERAL MINUTES AFTER THAT,
I GUESS I CAN TELL YOU... ABOUT... THE STORY OF THE YUKIIDE FATHER AND SON.

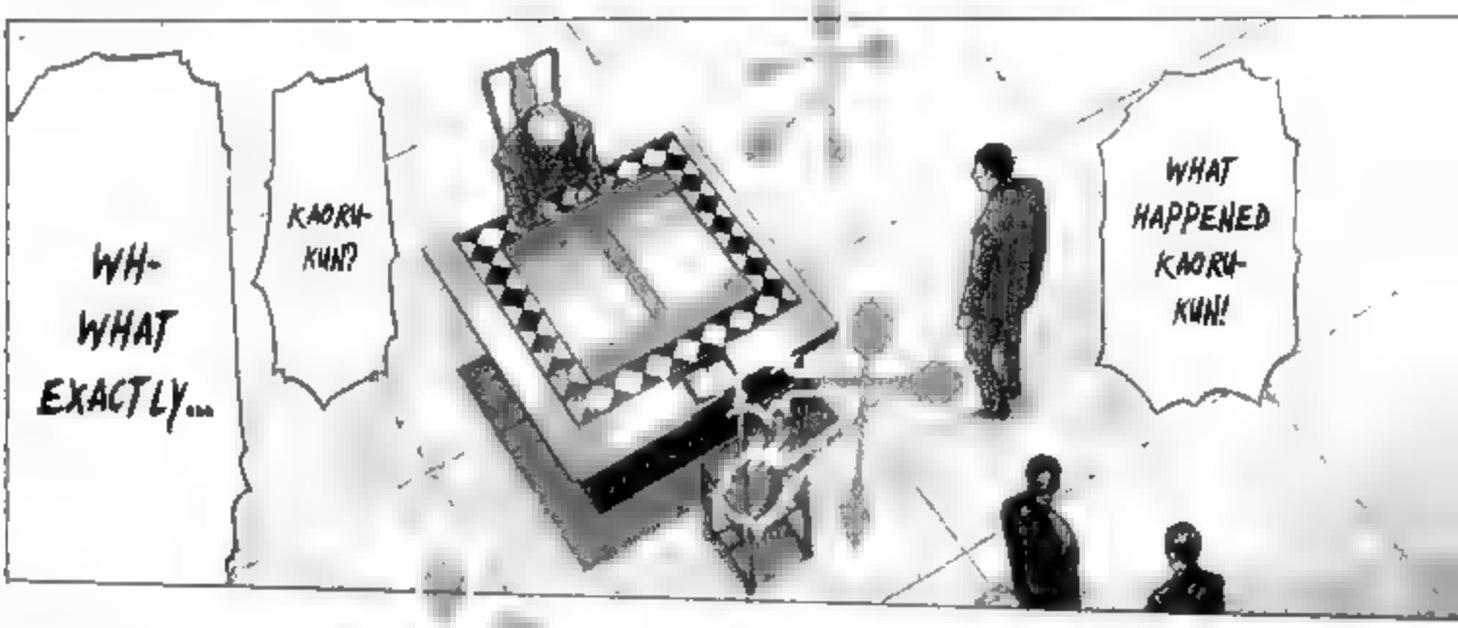
OUT-
SIDERS
ENTER-
ED
THE
MOMENT
THE BAN
WAS
LIFTED,
IN FRONT
OF THE
LABYRINTH,
THERE
STOOD...
.....

ONE MAN.


NO... TWO MEN.
..MINOWA

11
1
.....
DEFEAT
.....
1
REFEREE
4
OTHERS
KAORI-KUN!
KA-
!?
WHICH SIDE HE IS ON...
UNKNOWN

KAORU-KUN!


WH-WHAT EXACTLY...
KAORU-KUN?
WHAT HAPPENED KAORU-KUN!

.....

WHAT EXACTLY HAPPEN-ED?

WAVE
WAVE

HE'S GONE... AGAIN...
ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.. IT... IT RETURNED!!
TH- THIS IS... THIS REACTION
.....

THE TRUTH IS,
I WAS CONTACTED BY HIM.

...WHEN I HEARD THAT KAORU-KUN LOST,
I AM ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THIS BET.
I WAS FORCED BY THE ORGANIZ-ATION... SORRY ABOUT THIS EXCUSE.
HE CALLED WHEN THE OPPONENT WAS IN THE BATH-ROOM.
HE SAID HE LOST A HUNDRED MILLION..
IN OTHER WORDS, WHEN THE FIRST ROUND ENDED.
SOME-THING LIKE THIS...
I THOUGHT THAT WAS GOOD.
...ENDED SOME-THING LIKE THIS.
HE COULD'VE JUST LOST AND...
...SHOULDN'T BE CON-TINJED.
HE COULD HAVE...

LIKE THIS TO HAPPEN...
FOR SOME-THING...
FOR...
I TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT
BUT KAORU-KUN INSISTED HE WOULD WIN THE NEXT ROUND.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU TWO...
DON'T SAY IT.
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY THIS, BUT I CAN'T SAY I ADMIRE THAT.
YOU SAID YOUR NAME WAS... BAKU-KUN.
.....
YOU'RE A KAKEROU MEMBER AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE?
.....

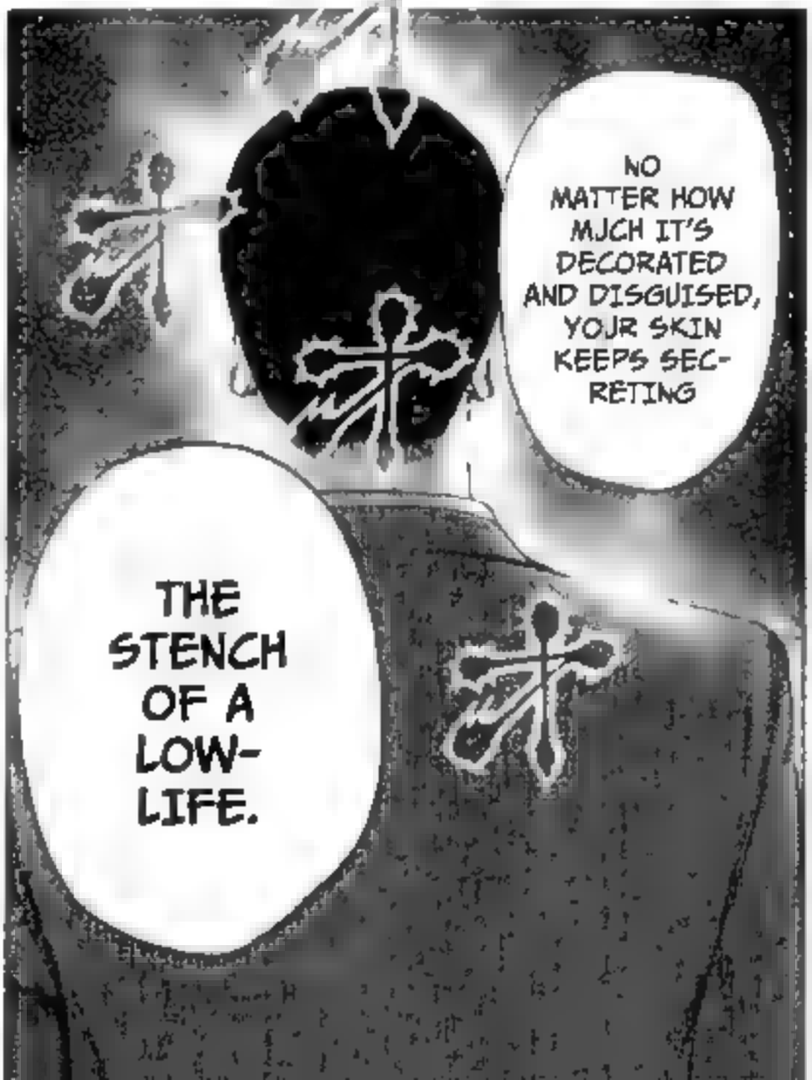
IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY IT IN THE FIRST PLACE,
THEN DON'T SAY IT.
ALSO, I MET KADO-KURA-SAN FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY. OUR RELATIONSHIP DOESN'T RUN DEEP.
it's shallow

IS THAT SO.
.....

WELL.. YOU SEE...
EVER SINCE YOU GUYS CAME HERE...
HEY, YOU KNOW, SORRY FOR SPEAKING SO RUDE-LY
BUT WHILE I'M STILL AT IT, LET ME SAY ONE MORE THING.

THERE'S BEEN A STRONG STENCH.
YUCK

WHAT?
.....


NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT'S DECORATED AND DISGUISED, YOUR SKIN KEEPS SECRETING
THE STENCH OF A LOW-LIFE.

DON'T PLAY DUMB.
NOPE!
I KNOW YOU TRIED TO.

YOU TRIED TO KILL ME
BECAUSE I DEFEATED THE WATCH-DOG OF THE LABYRINTH AND GAINED LOTS OF MONEY,
LIKE A LOWLIFE WOULD.

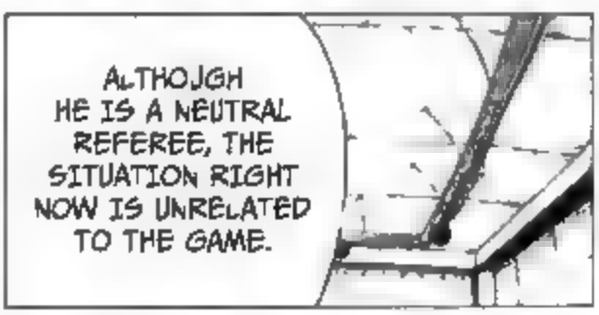
CONFIRM-ATION OF VICTORY OR DEFEAT,
CONFIRM-ATION OF THE AMOUNT LOST,
THE NUMBER OF REFEREES AND OTHERS, AND...

WHEN THE KAKEROU GAME ENDED AND THIS PLACE BECAME CHAOTIC, YOU HID YOURSELF BEHIND YOUR COMPANION.
AND CONFIRMED THE SITUATION OF THIS PLACE FROM THERE JUST IN CASE,
SINCE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE THE RISK OF GETTING HURT.

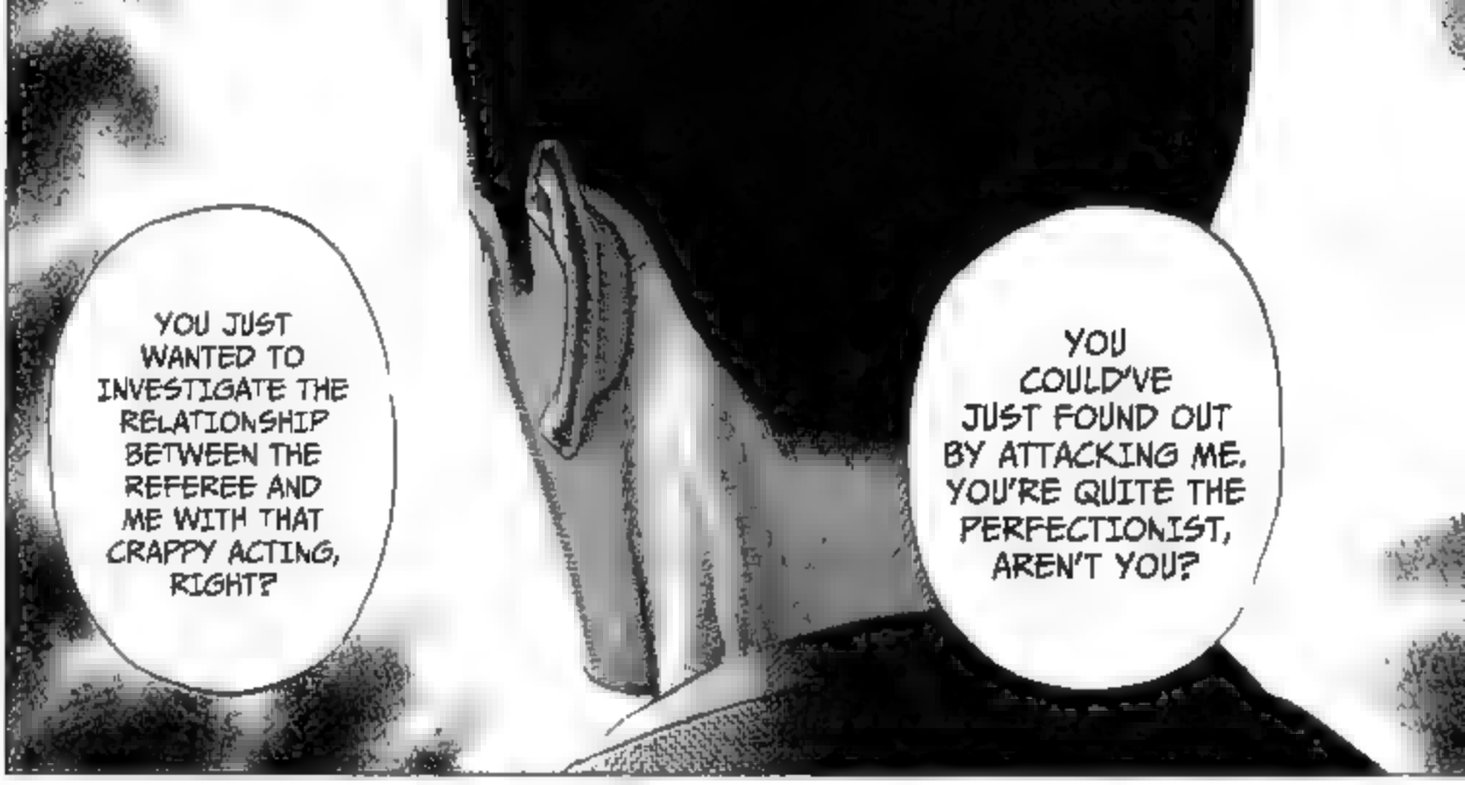
WELL, AREN'T YOU REALLY THOROUGH... WHEN YOU COULD'VE JUST DISPOSED OF ME IMMEDIATELY.
OF COURSE,
THE NUMBER OF OPPONENTS, ONE PERSON.

.....
YOU HAD SOME DOUBTS.
BUT TOWARDS THE REFEREE SENT BY THE ORGANIZATION,

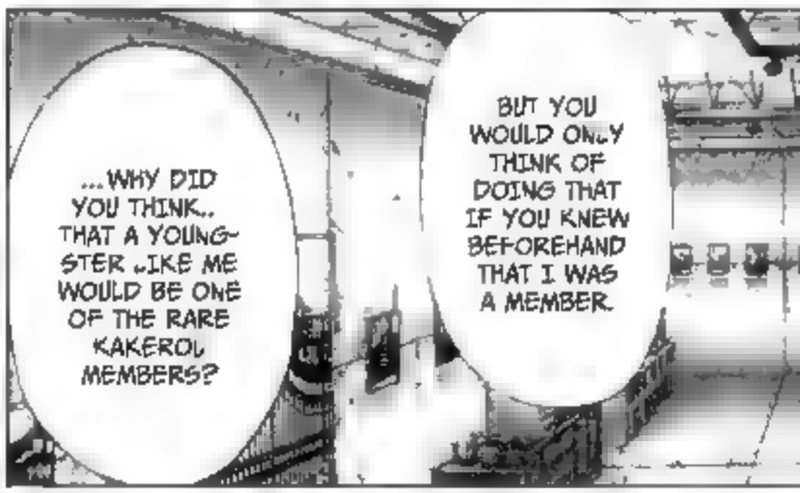
...HEH... AS IF.
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT HE'LL WORK WITH YOU ON USING VIOLENCE AGAINST ME.
AS A REFEREE, HE MAY BE SOMEONE WHO HAS AN OBLIGATION TO DELIVER ME TO A SAFE PLACE... AND THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT WE HAVE THAT KIND OF PARTNERSHIP.


ALTHOJGH HE IS A NEUTRAL REFEREE, THE SITUATION RIGHT NOW IS UNRELATED TO THE GAME.

KADOKURA-SAN DOESN'T HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO PREVENT ME FROM USING VIOLENCE...
AND AT THE SAME TIME...


YOU JUST WANTED TO INVESTIGATE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE REFEREE AND ME WITH THAT CRAPPY ACTING, RIGHT?
YOU COULD'VE JUST FOUND OUT BY ATTACKING ME. YOU'RE QUITE THE PERFECTIONIST, AREN'T YOU?

SO?


...WHY DID YOU THINK.. THAT A YOUNG-STER LIKE ME WOULD BE ONE OF THE RARE KAKEROL MEMBERS?
BUT YOU WOULD ONLY THINK OF DOING THAT IF YOU KNEW BEFOREHAND THAT I WAS A MEMBER.

I DIDN'T REVEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY UNTIL THE END OF THE SECOND ROUND.
WHEN YOU WERE IN CONTACT WITH YUKKII? HE HIMSELF DIDN'T KNOW THE TRUTH, AND YET...

SO WHAT?
NOPE.
You will die
YOU PROBABLY INTENDED TO TAKE CONTROL OF THIS PLACE WITH THOSE COMMENTS, AND ENSURE YOUR SAFETY BY RETURNING SOME OF THE MONEY, BUT...
BASED ON THIS EXCHANGE, I CAN TELL... THERE IS NO ONE HERE WHO WOULD INTERFERE WITH THE DISPOSING OF YOU.
.....

THERE IS ONE
HERE!!

Chapter 106:
The Devil of the Abandoned Building, Again

!

HE IS...
THE DEVIL OF THE ABANDONED BUILDING,

RODEMU!

.....
MINOWA

SINCE IT ONLY MEANS I HAVE ONE MORE ANIMAL TO TAKE CARE OF
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY.
DOING THINGS LIKE THESE IS MY JOB, SO...
THERE'S NO REASON FOR OUR SIDE TO LOSE.

HAVING TO PROTECT ALL THAT MONEY WHILE FIGHTING,
THAT'S GOING TO BE A BIG HINDRANCE.
IT'S SOON GOING TO BECOME AN INTENSE FIST FIGHT OVER HERE.
THAT SIDE,

.....
Me?
Hehe. I wonder
WELL, YOU GUYS ON THAT SIDE,
THE RUMORED GAMBLER, USOGUI, IS A LANKY FLY.
AND...
APART FROM THE YOUNGSTER WHO JUST CAME HERE,

WELL, EITHER WAY, THE RESULT IS GOING TO BE THE SAME,
SINCE WE HAVE TWO MORE PEOPLE WAITING AT THE PARK-ING LOT.
YOU PROBABLY AREN'T GOING TO WANT TO THROW AWAY YOUR MONEY.

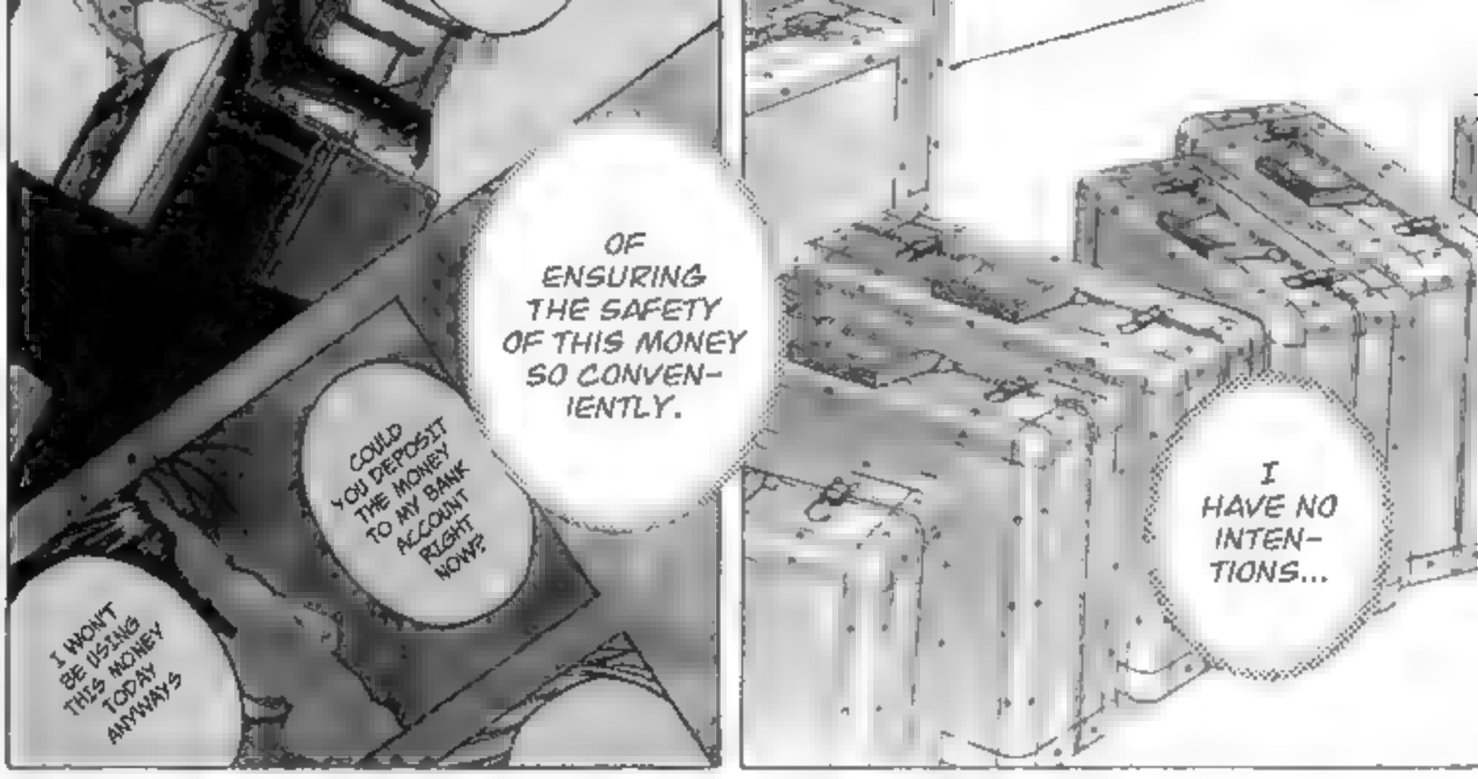
LET'S JUST START.
SPIT

.....
CRACK
OH, I SEE... WE ALSO DON'T REALLY LIKE BARBARIC WAYS OF DOING THINGS, BUT...
GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED... WELL THEN,

BAKU-
SAMA,
THE MONEY THAT YOU HAVE WON...
IF I REMEM-BER COR-RECTLY,

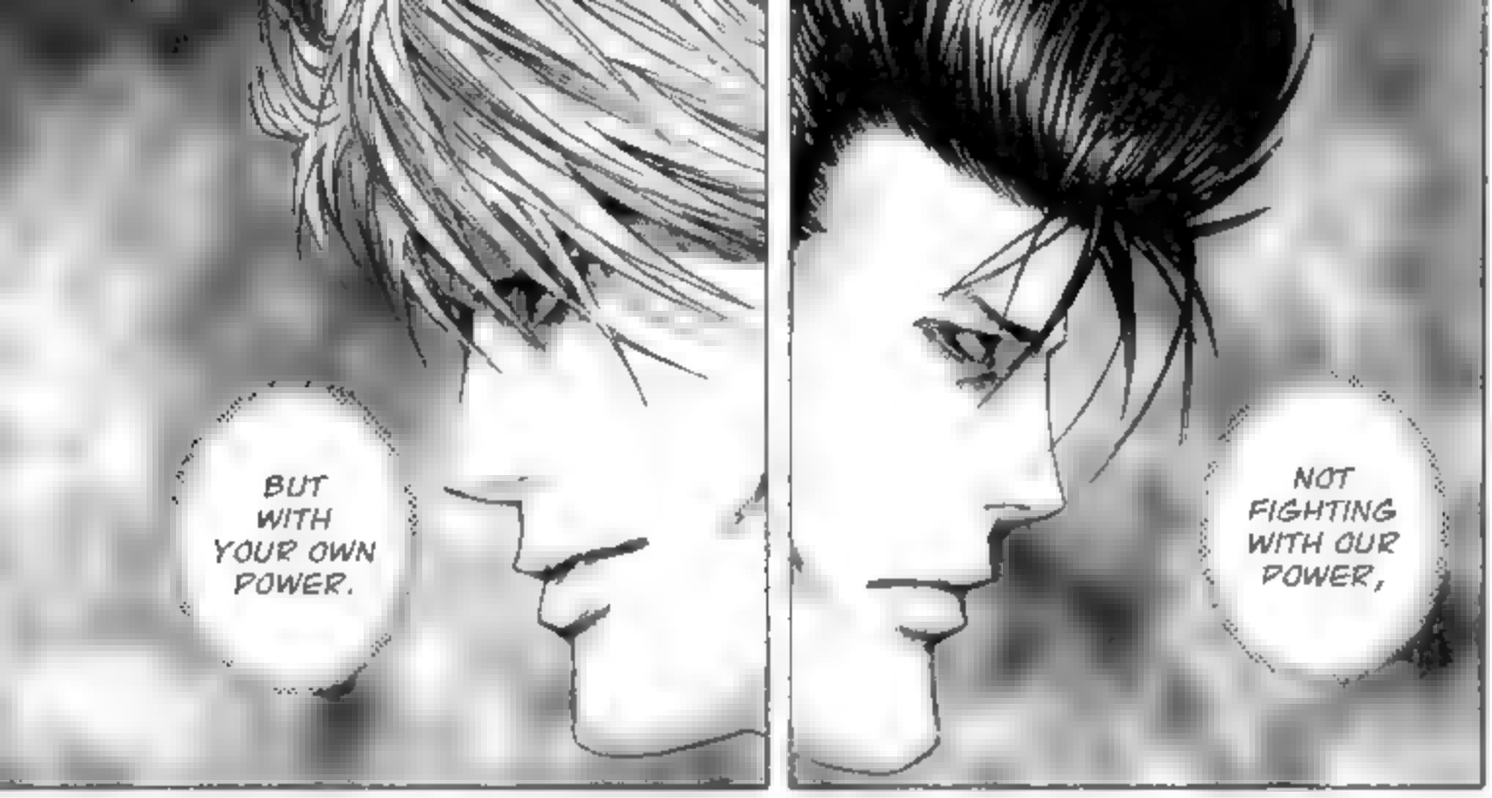
...WILL BE IN OUR...
...CUSTODY.

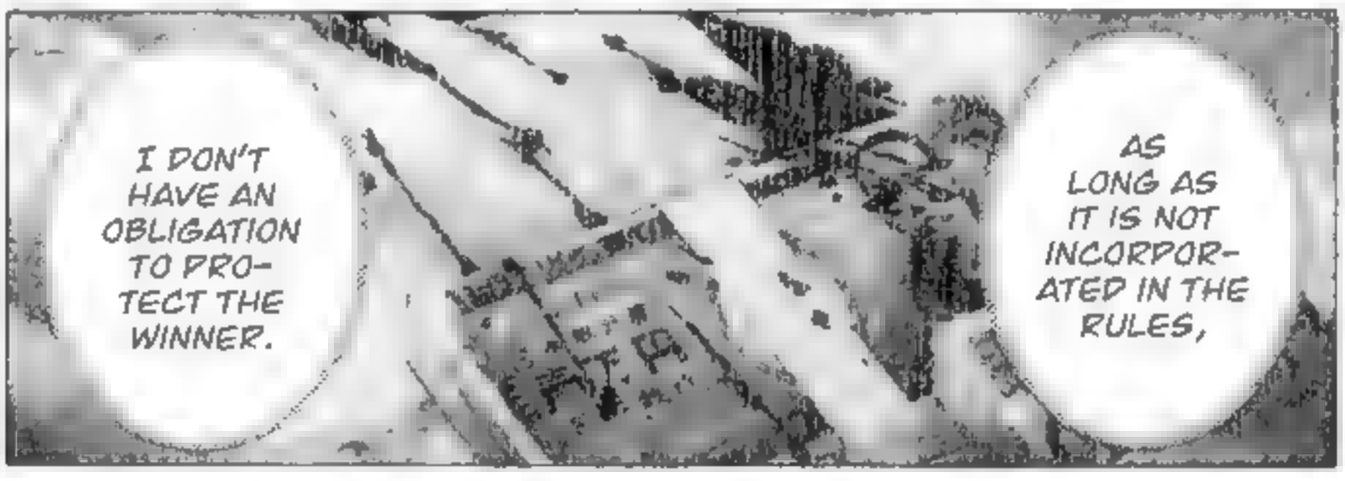
HEH HEH..
.....
WHAT A TURN OF EVENTS
.....
.....
THE MONEY WON FROM THE GAME..


I WON'T BE USING THIS MONEY TODAY ANYWAYS
COULD YOU DEPOSIT THE MONEY TO MY BANK ACCOUNT RIGHT NOW?
OF ENSURING THE SAFETY OF THIS MONEY SO CONVEN-IENTLY.
I HAVE NO INTEN-TIONS...

WHETHER YOU CAN THRIVE FROM WHAT YOU'VE WON DEPENDS ON YOUR OWN ABILITY.
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE YOU'LL BE PROTECTED AND ENSURED WITH SAFETY IN A FIGHT

TRULY FACING THAT DANGER MEANS .
THERE IS OF COURSE A LARGER DANGER THAT ACCOMPA-NIES IT.
THE LARGER YOU BET,

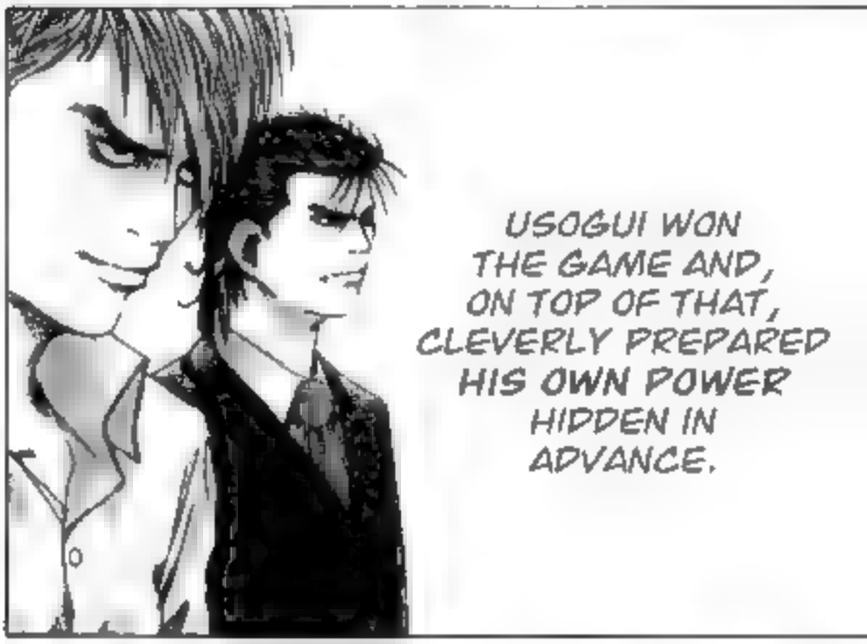

BUT WITH YOUR OWN POWER.
NOT FIGHTING WITH OUR POWER,


I DON'T HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THE WINNER.
AS LONG AS IT IS NOT INCORPORATED IN THE RULES,

HE DOESN'T HAVE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO GET THE MONEY...AND LACKS THE BRAINS...
SOMEONE WHO IS DEFEATED WITH NO TRICKS UP THEIR SLEEVES WHILE IGNORING THE RISK OF FIGHTING ON ENEMY TERRITORY...
HE'S JUST A WEAKLING.
...IS A LOSER FROM THE BEGINNING

AND WAS A MAN WHO WOULD ONLY USE THE REFEREE FOR HIS OWN GOOD, BUT...
IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT STORY IF USOGUI COULDN'T PREDICT A SITUATION LIKE THIS,

...DOES NOT BETRAY THE NEUTRAL STANCE I HOLD.
AND AFTER ALL.... WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THIS...


USOGUI WON THE GAME AND, ON TOP OF THAT, CLEVERLY PREPARED HIS OWN POWER HIDDEN IN ADVANCE.

MEANWHILE AMAKO, ALTHOUGH THE MORE HUMAN OF THE TWO, REFUSES TO ADMIT DEFEAT WITH HIS DARK PRIDE.
AFTER OBSERVING THESE TWO IN THIS SITUATION, MY DECISION TO KEEP THE VICTOR'S MONEY IN CUSTODY...

...IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS...
CLEAN THIS WHOLE PLACE UP.
!
OH~ WELL~
SINCE I ALREADY SAID THE RESULT WON'T CHANGE BECAUSE OF THE MONEY,
GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO...

HEH... THAT'S ONE SHADY LOOK.
Grin
KADOKURA-KUN.
WE HAVE NO INTENTIONS TO QUARREL WITH YOU RIGHT NOW.

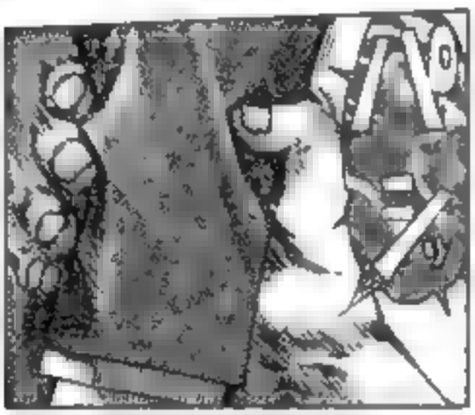
HE DOESN'T WANT TO PICK A FIGHT RIGHT NOW IN CASE IT CONNECTS TO THE CLUB...
IT'S AN EXPECTED DECISION FROM AMAKO... EVEN IF HE WANTS TO TAKE BACK THE MONEY.

.....
USOGUI HAS NO REASON TO RUN ANY MORE RISKS BY PLAYING ANOTHER GAME.

BAKU-KUN...YOU INTIMIDATE ME...
IT'S OUR LOSS. YOU GOT US... COMPLETELY...

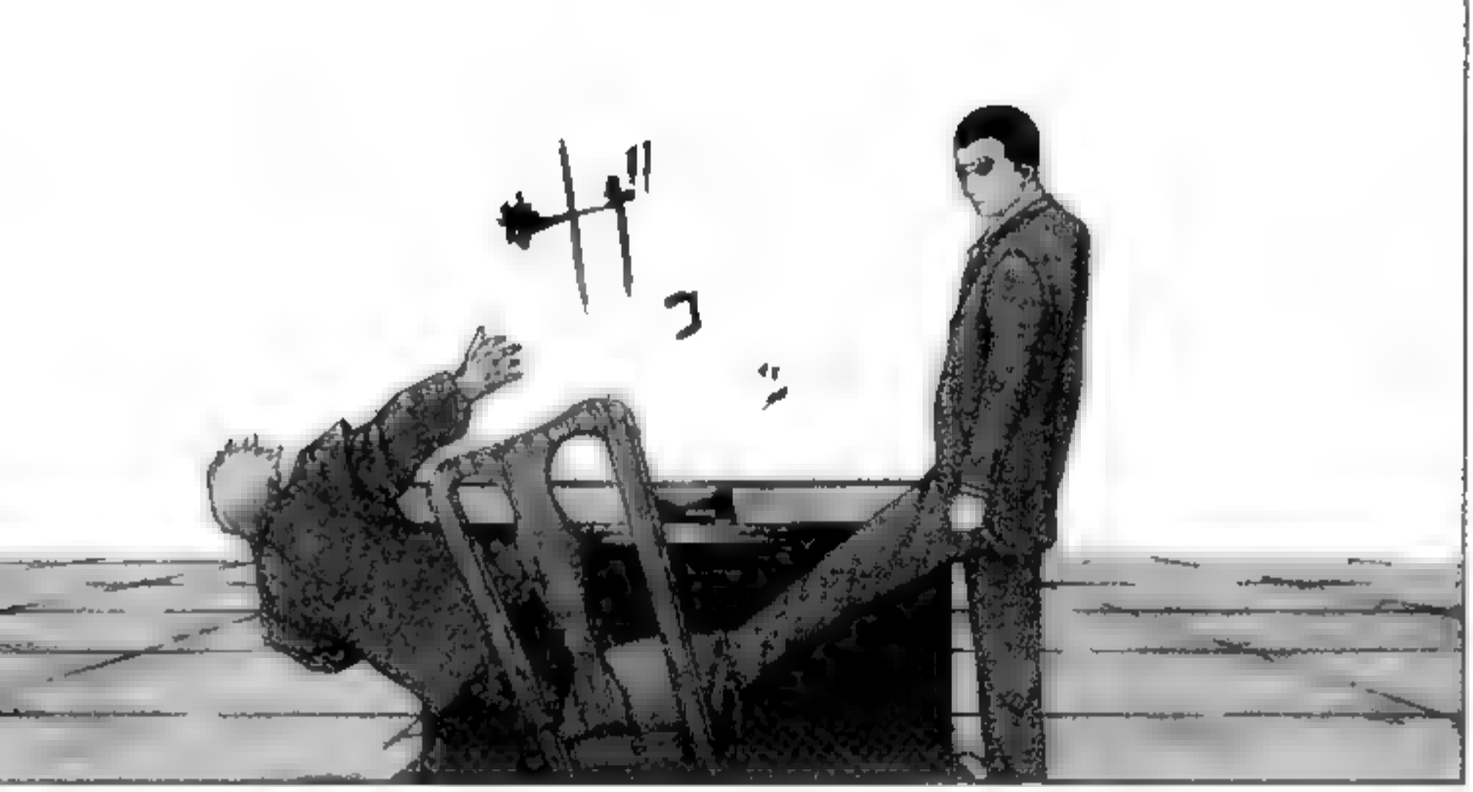
YOU WIN.
IT'S YOUR WIN.

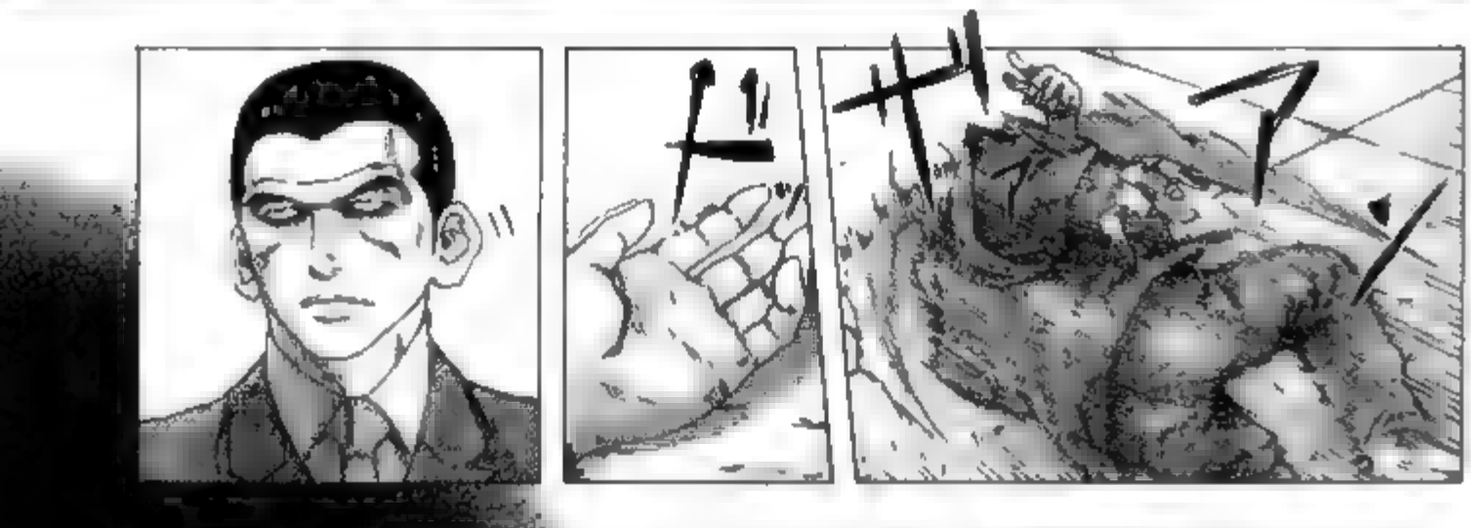
.....



Pace
TWITCH

.....
Grab





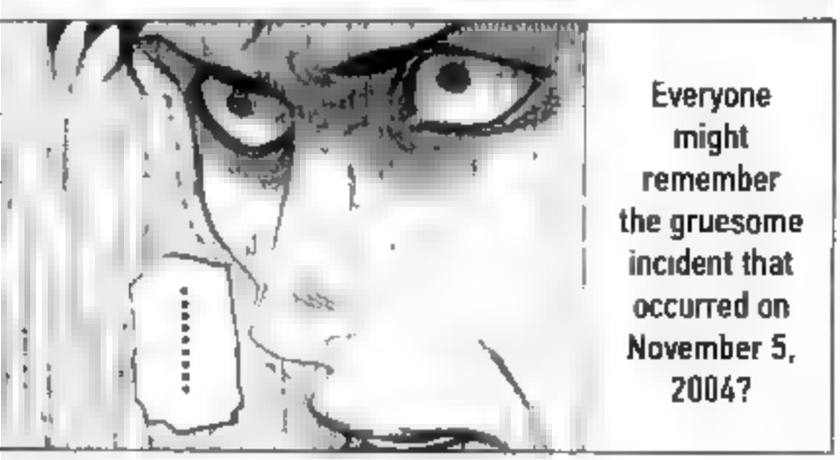
YUKKII DECEIVING
BY PASSING THE MEMORY TO ME, YUKKII WAS FREED FROM THE FALSE CURSE... YOU WERE...
I RECEIVED A CERTAIN MEMORY FROM YUKKII A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
!
OH YEAH! I REMEMBER. YOU'RE AMAKO SEIICHI FROM THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WHICH MEANS YOU WERE LYING TO ME.
IF YOU WANT MONEY AND YOUR LIFE,

A KAKEROU GAME.
LET'S DO IT.

It is truly deplorable.
..."my shoulder hurts", "my back hurts", "it's insomnia" and "I was stressed because I couldn't think of new ideas"
...has been making nonsensical excuses like...
The pervert who hid and made a rampage at Company S...
Chapter 107
Something that is Obvious

Now then... next in the news...

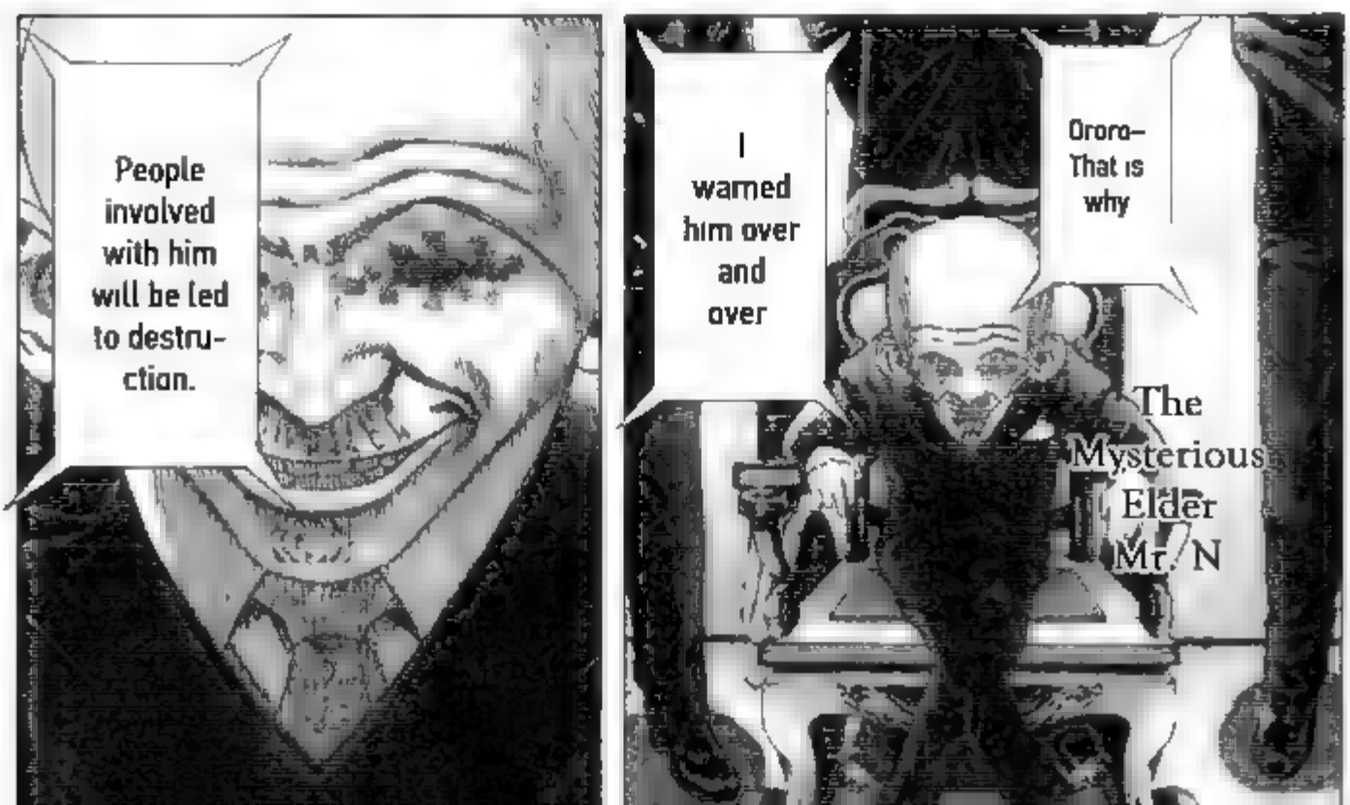

.....
Everyone might remember the gruesome incident that occurred on November 5, 2004?

Kaji Takomi (23)
Heinous Murderer
Today, the police
have identified the culprit and placed him on the wanted list.
Suspect Kaji Takaomi, Age 23.
Chapter 107:
Something that is Obvious

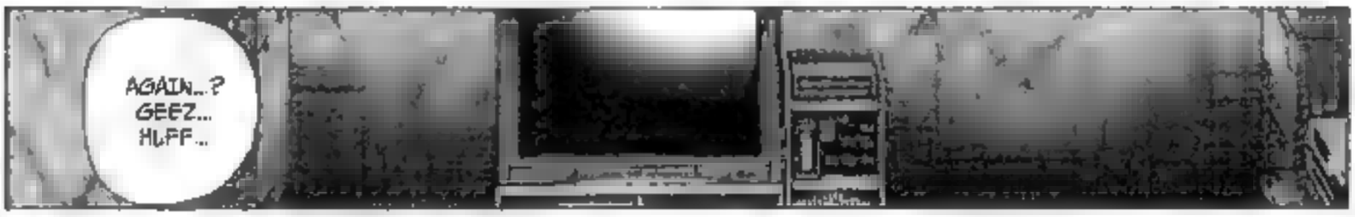
We have made attempts to interview people who knew of the culprit.

Looking flustered is one of his strategies, so...
I forgot to pay attention and let my guard down... He's a cheeky and sick guy... But to think he's a murderer.
He's a horrible bastard. I'm one of the good citizens who was a victim of him.
Hey! The mosaic for the back isn't placed properly
Oh, I don't only know him.
Gambling Companion Mr. S-maru

Ta, Takaomi— Run—!
Meet me, meet me at the ocean—
Mother of Kaji
...? My ear...? You wanna know why half my ear's missing?
...he did kinda look like he would do something like that. He...
Well, I guess it's too late to say this, but...

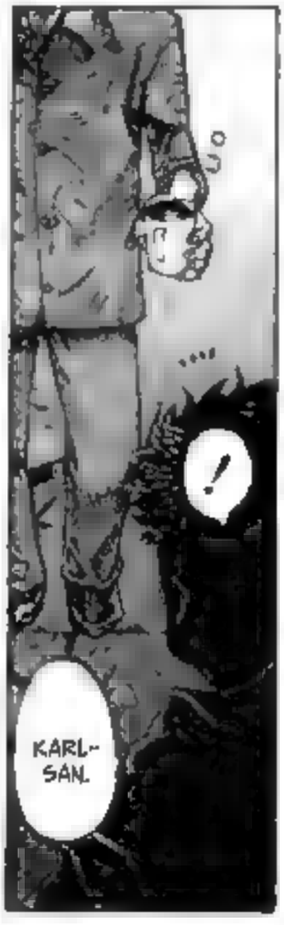

People involved with him will be led to destruction.
I warned him over and over
Ororo— That is why
The Mysterious Elder Mr. N

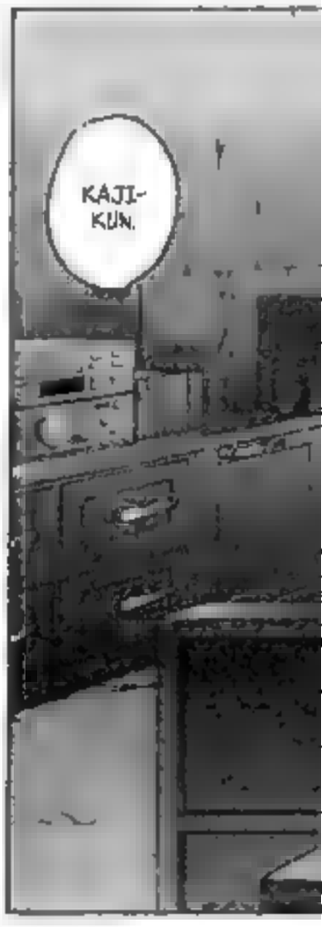
HUFF
HUFF


AGAIN...?
GEEZ...
HUFF..

IT'S ALREADY GOING TO BE DEMOLISHED.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO FROM NOW ON?.. HEY, KARL-SAN?

KARL-SAN...
THIS PLACE... THIS BUILDING IS ALREADY...


....
!
KARL-SAN.

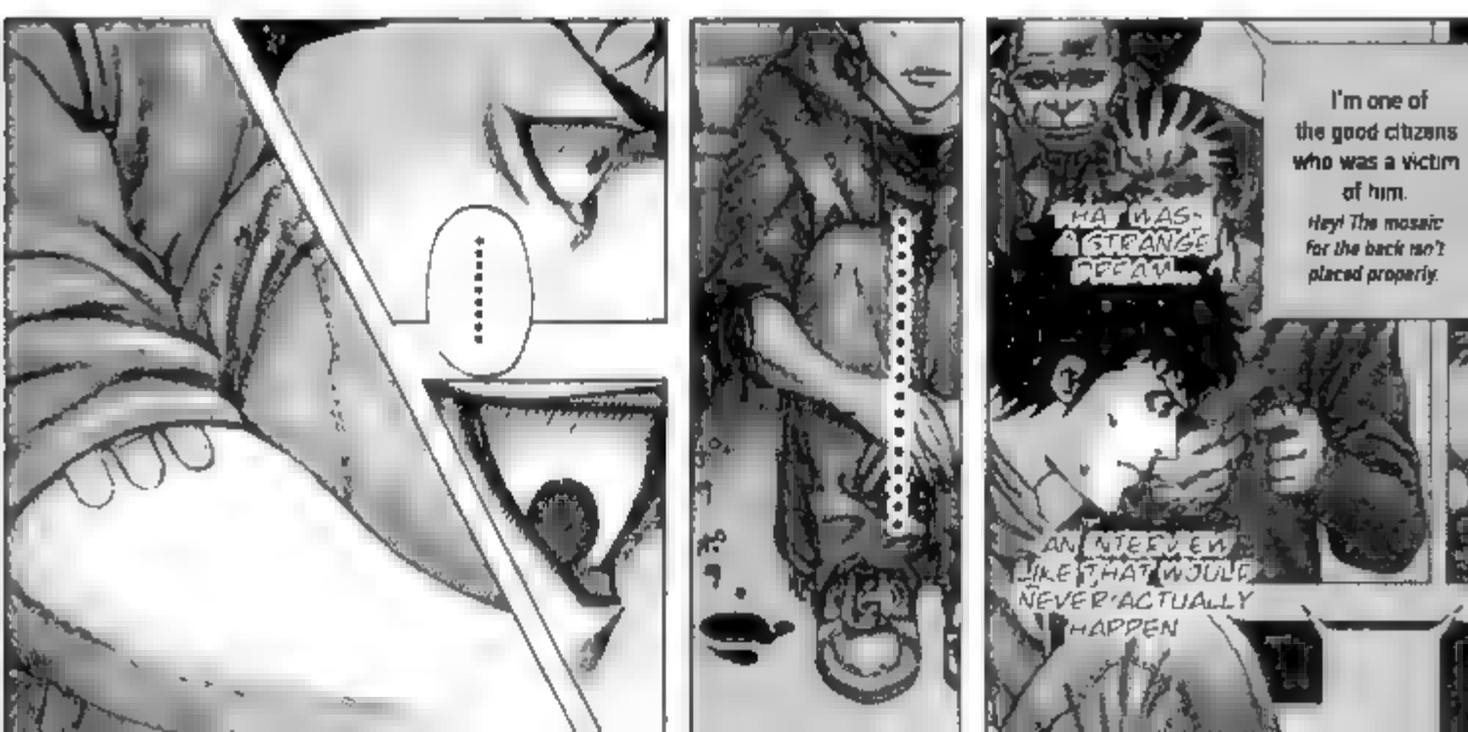

KAJI-KUN.

SOME-
THING'S
COMING
OUT.
HUH~?
GGGGGIIII
THIS
OLD MAN'S
HOPE-
LESS

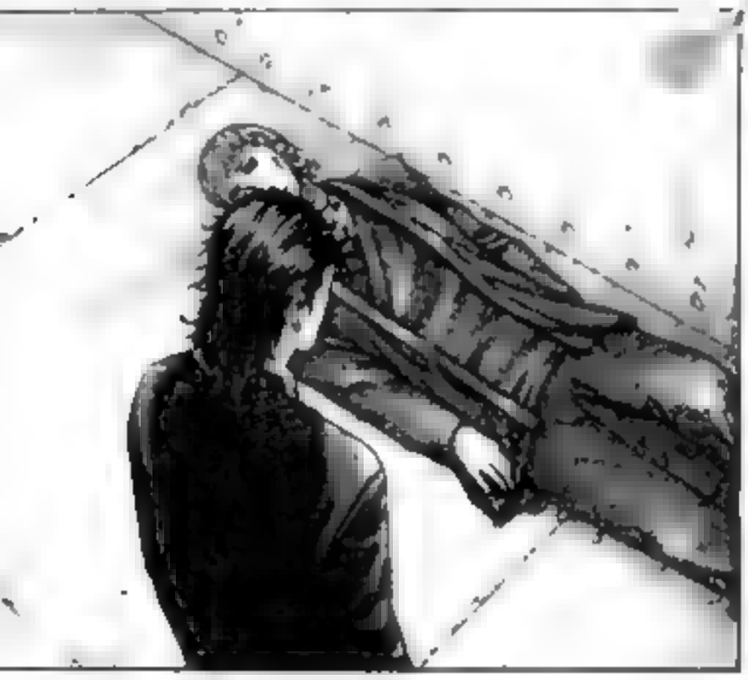
KARL-
SA

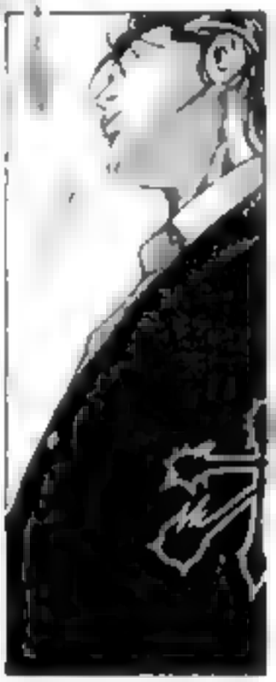
COME
ON, GO
TO THE
TOILET
KARL-
SAN,
KARL-
SAN

HAHA— YOU MUST'VE HAD A NIGHTMARE. THEN WE'RE FRIENDS NOW.
N-NO, IT'S NO-THING..
DID YOU... CALL MY NAME, KAJI-KUN?
YOU WERE PISSING AMONG OTHER THINGS.
WELL, DON'T BE SO FRIGHTENED. LET US TALK ABOUT OUR NIGHTMARES TOGETHER. WHAT ON EARTH WAS I DOING?
APPARENTLY, IN SOME CASES, DREAMS HAVE HINTS TO THE SOLUTION OF YOUR CURRENT SITUATION.


HA WAS- A STRANGE DREAM
I'm one of the good citizens who was a victim of him.
Hey! The mosaic for the back isn't placed properly.
AN INCIDENT LIKE THAT WOULD NEVER ACTUALLY HAPPEN

死亡





IT MAY BE...
.....
...SOMETHING THAT ONE IS BORN WITH.

PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS, CONSPIRACIES, PLOYS...
THE QUALITY TO DISCLOSE
THOSE HIDDEN INTENTIONS.
.....
A GAME... WITH ME?

IN CONTRAST TO HIS CARE-FREE MANNER, WITH HIS ICY GAZE,
THE ABILITY TO LOOK THROUGH A LIE DISGUISED AS THE TRUTH...
HE SEES THROUGH THEIR COMPLEXITY, THE SUSPICIONS, AND ALL THE SIGNS AN OPPONENT GIVES OFF.
USING THAT INFORMATION, HE ANTICIPATES HIS FOES. HE SENSES WHAT WILL HAPPEN BY INSTINCT AND UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING IN HIS HEAD...

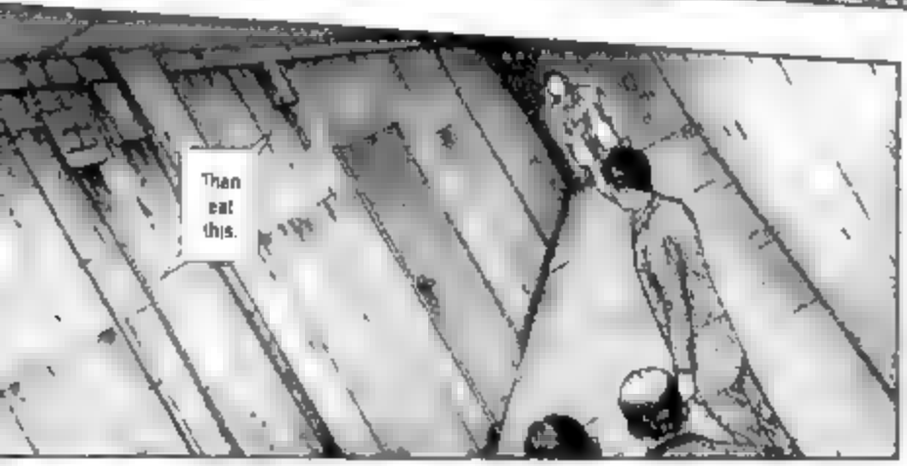
SUS-
PICIOUS
THINGS
HAVE
OBVIOUS
TRUTHS,
AND
OBVIOUS
THINGS
HAVE
ANOTHER
SIDE TO
THEM.
.....
I
SEEM
TO HAVE
MADE A
MISCON-
CEPTION,
BAKU-
KUN...
YOU
ARE
TRULY...
...SUPERIOR.
.....

MEN OF TALENT... PEOPLE LIKE YOU... ARE WHAT I LIKE.
HOW ABOUT IT?
DO YOU WANT TO TRY TAKING OVER THIS JOB?
YOU CAN GET AS MUCH MONEY AS YOU WANT.

I THINK I'M COMPAT-IBLE WITH YOU...
WE MAY BE ABLE TO... GET ALONG.
WHE-THER THEY WERE WORDS OF FALL-ACY OR NOT, THIS TIME...
WHAT USOGUI SENSED WASN'T SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

THIS GUY... HE'S STALLING FOR TIME... THIS PLACE...
IS GOING TO BE UNDER SIEGE AS IT IS...

HE INTENDS TO TAKE HOLD OF A CERTAIN ADVANTAGEOUS SOMETHING FOR HIMSELF IN THE GAME...
A VERY DIFFERENT SOMETHING IN THIS SHORT TIME
THIS IS ENEMY TERRITORY IF TOO MUCH TIME PASSES, IT'S OF COURSE GOING TO BECOME UNFAVORABLE FOR US BUT THAT'S NOT HIS AIM


Then eat this.

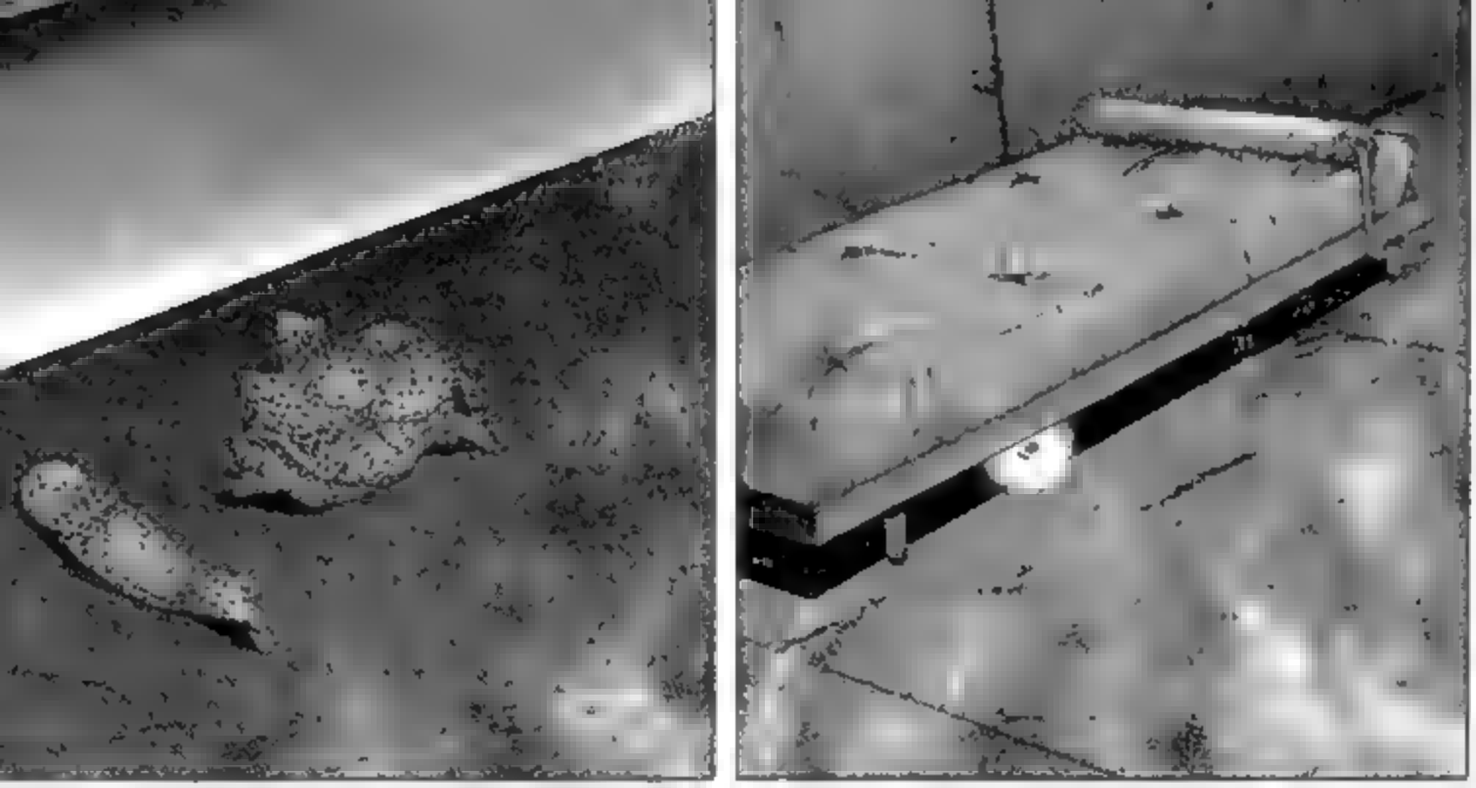
Are you irritated?

The sourness will be irresistible!
THIS IS... THE LAST ONE...

Let's not buy in bulk.
.....

Be fatigue-free with crunchy pickled plums!

Munch with a crunch!
THEY'RE NOT HERE.
ISN'T THIS THE PLACE?
IN THIS WHOLE BUILDING... THIS SHOULD BE THE LAST OF ALL THE ROOMS.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED... WE'LL DO A THOROUGH SEARCH AGAIN.



HOW DID YOU NOTICE, KAJI-KUN?
THERE REALLY WAS ONE SET UP, BUT...
HOW, KAJI-KUN?

A MINI-GPS IS FAIRLY TECHNOLO-GICALLY ADVANCED.
ALTHOJGH HIDING IT IN A BAND-AID IS EASY TO DO...

.....
AND THEN I REMEMBERED ABOUT THE BAND-AID.
IN THE DREAM, THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY RIGHT ARM.
THE DREAM WAS THE TRIGGER.

AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT IT.
IT WAS SOMETHING THAT A GUIDE NAMED KURISU GAVE ME.

THERE WERE TRACES THAT SHOWED BAND-AIDS WERE FREQUENTLY USED INSIDE THE CAR.
MOST LIKELY, THEY DO THE SAME THING TO ALL THE SUCKERS.

BUT IF EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED BEFORE GETTING IN THE CAR, LIKE THE COP AND THE WOMAN, WAS A SET UP FROM THE BEGINNING,
THEN MAYBE THE ACT OF GIVING THAT TO ME WAS A PART OF THEIR TRICK. TO PROVE THAT...

WHY WOULD THEY GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO TREAT THEIR WOJND?
THEN,

.....

KINDNESS? BECAUSE THE CAR WILL GET DIRTY?
THAT WOULDN'T BE IT.

IRRI-TATING SCUM...
DIE, YOU LOSER.
YOU GROSS ME OUT
YOU LUCKY BRAT.
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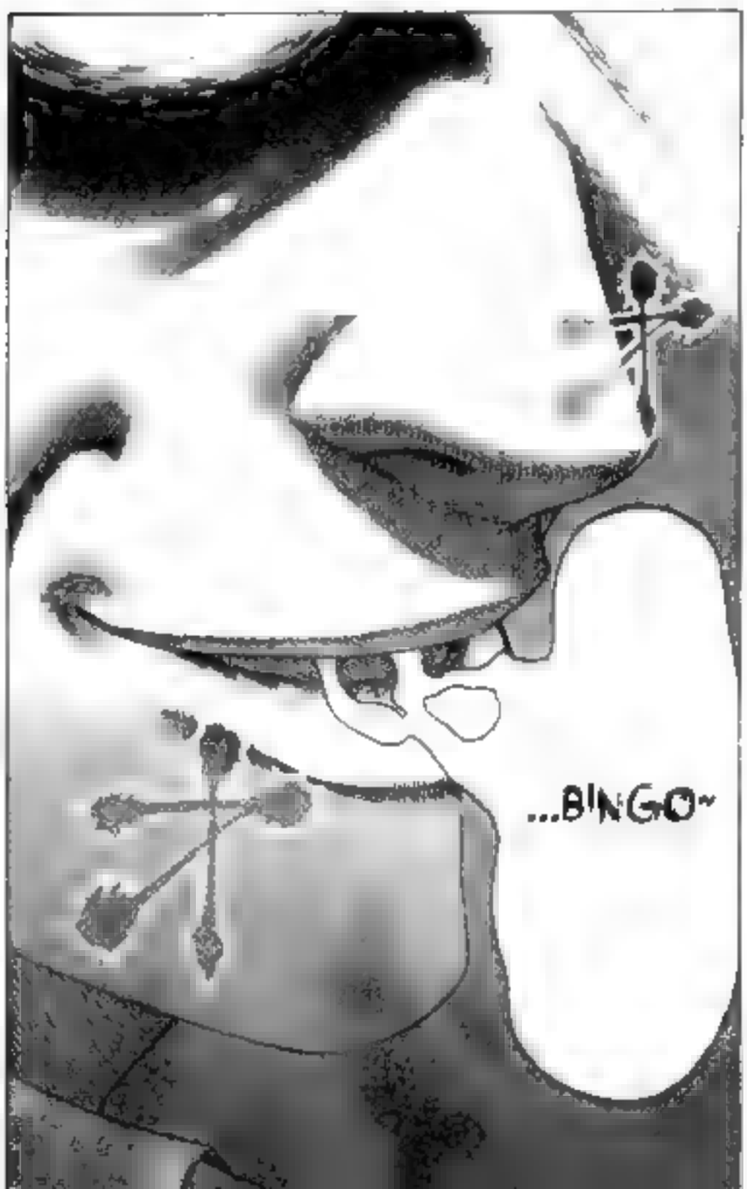
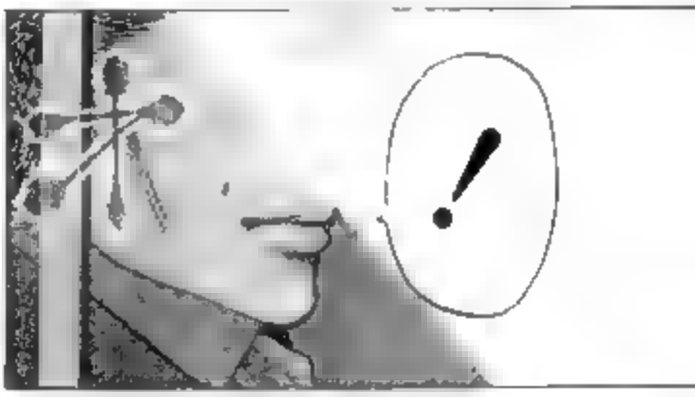
WHAT ELSE COULD BE THE REASON? THE ONLY REASON WOULD BE BECAUSE
IT'S NATURAL TO DO SO. RIGHT?


...BINGO~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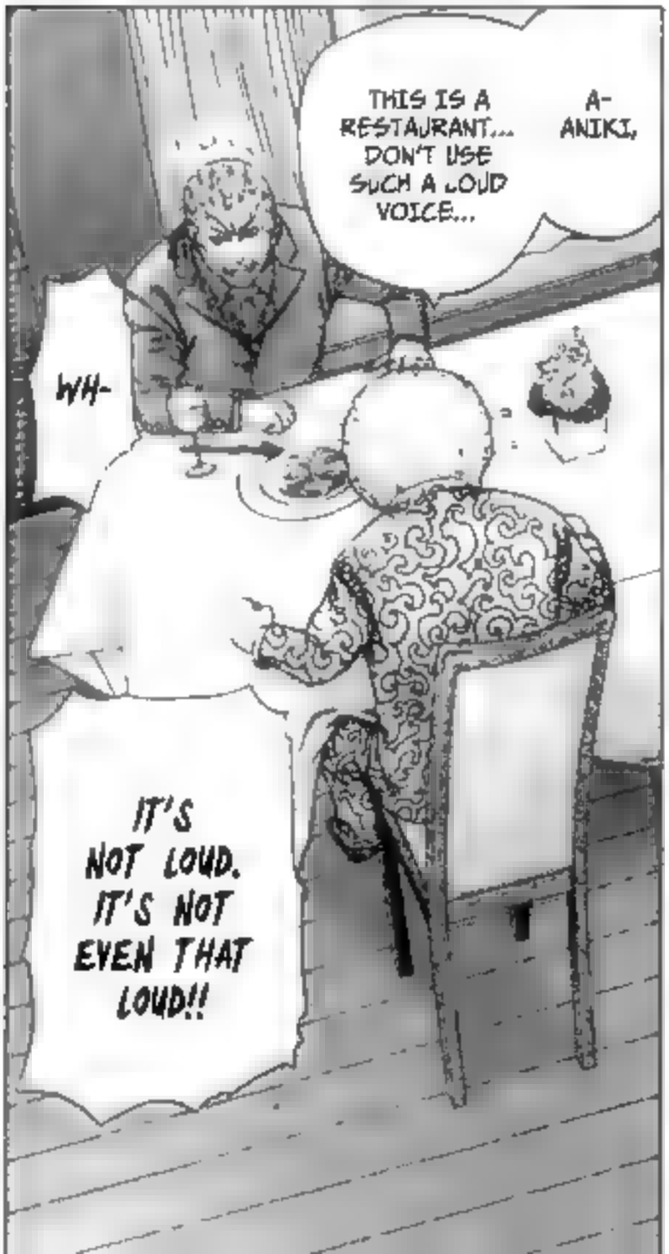
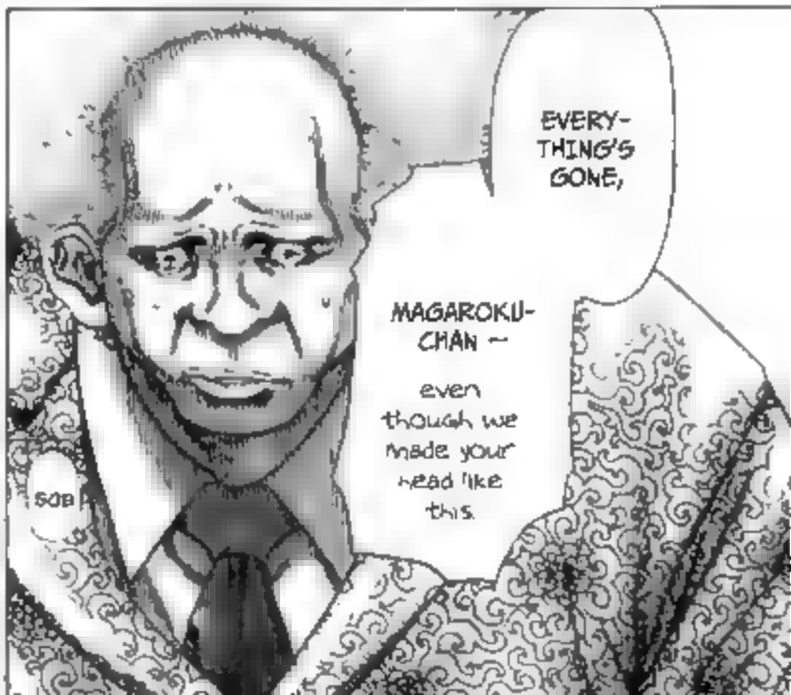
Chapter 108
crash


A-ANIKI,
THIS IS A RESTAURANT... DON'T USE SUCH A LOUD VOICE...
WH-
IT'S NOT LOUD. IT'S NOT EVEN THAT LOUD!!

IT'S GONE.
.....


EVERY-THING'S GONE,
MAGAROKU-CHAN --
even though we made your head like this
SOB

WE WERE SOOO CLOSE.
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO SET UP A LARGE AMOUNT OF LOANS DURING THIS DINNER.
WE WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF DISGUISING AS FOREIGNERS, AND FINALLY LURED A SUCKER, AND
GEEZ~

HAVE YOU SEEN ANYONE TALK LIKE THAT IN REAL LIFE?
WHAT KIND OF FOREIGNER TALKS IN SUCH A MESSED UP WAY? EH? AND PRISON MEANS JAIL.
HUH? HAVE YOU? HEY.
THEY ONLY TALK LIKE THAT IN MANGA.
"OK OK",
"THIS DESU~",
"HAI~",
"SPA-GHETTI PRISON", SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT...
"YESS", "YESS",

T/N: "DESU" IS A PHRASE ADDED TO JAPANESE SENTENCES, I DIDN'T TRANSLATE IT TO SHOW THE BAD ENGLISH/BAD JAPANESE SPOKEN BY THE CHARACTERS.

YESS~
OK
OK
THIS DESU~ YOU MAY GO BACK NOW!!

THE FORK IS FOR PIER-CING.
THE SPOON IS FOR CUTTING AND SCOOP-ING.
.....

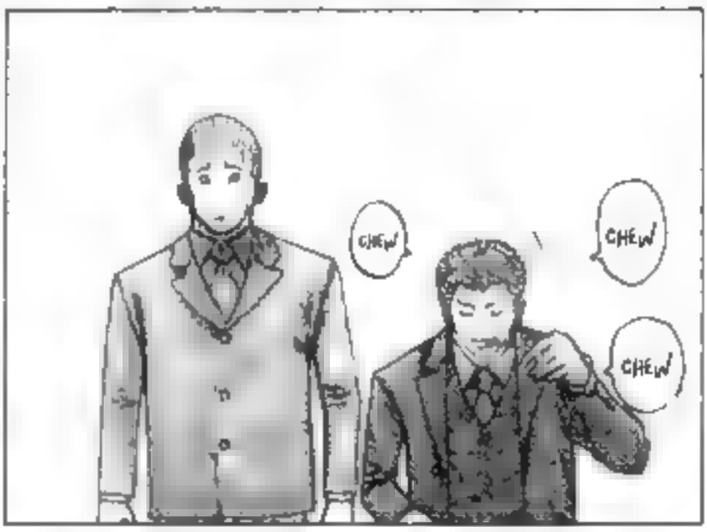
ISN'T THIS AN AMAZING INVENTION?
I CAN'T EAT UNLESS IT'S WITH THIS DESU~
IN A HANDY AND BEAU-TIFUL FORM!!
THIS IS A COMBI-NATION OF BOTH FUNCTIONS,

A SPORK.
!
...BY THE WAY, I WONDER WHAT THIS IS CALLED.
I ALWAYS SEEM TO FORGET TO ASK ITS NAME DESU~
I'M SO, SO GLAD MY MESS-AGE GOT THROUGH. NOW, LET'S EAT WITHOJT DELAY.

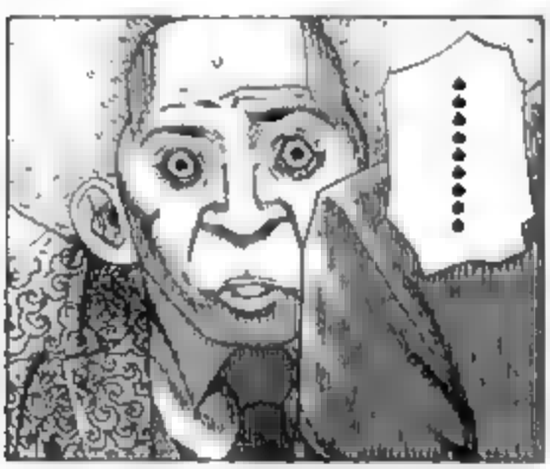
AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU KNOW THE NAME NOW...? BUT...
IT'S CALLED A SPORK.
MR. FOREIG-NER~
OH, A HAND-HAKE? AS EXPECTED, AMERICANS LIKE INTI-MACY...
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE...
PAT
DON'T YOU THINK YOUR VOICE IS A BIT TOO LOUD?
THIS IS A RESTAU-RANT, AFTER ALL.

DON'T TOUCH ME.
YOU MONKEY.

.....


CHEW!
CHEW!
CHEW!

A-ANIKI!
AHHH~ MY HAND~!!


.....

AH!
AH!
AH!

AS A SIGN OF APOLOGY... HERE.
MY NAME IS MARTIN... THIS ISN'T A LOT, BUT PLEASE TAKE IT.
FOR MY COMPANION TO DO SUCH A THING...
I'M VERY SORRY.

FUFU... I THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET ALONG.
TALK ABOUT IT MORE OUTSIDE...
AND OF COURSE, THE DINNER FOR TODAY WILL ALSO BE PAID FOR SEPARATELY BY US... NOW...
LET US...

NOW,

.....

CRAIG-KUN.
LET US GET TO THE MAIN ISSUE,
IN JAPAN, THERE'S A PROVERB, "TOUCH AND THREE THOUSAND"...*
YOU'VE BEEN QJITE BJSY MOVING AROUND EVERYWHERE... I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE, BUT...
THIRD SECRETARY SEAT IN THE CIA... AFTER YOU WERE APPOINTED TO JAPAN...

T/N: 触り三万 IT MEANS THAT ONE MISTAKE CAN CAUSE A LOSS OF THREE THOUSAND-YEN

EVEN AN EMBASSY MEMBER CAN DIE.
IF YOU FOOL AROUND TOO MUCH,

OH~
THE L-FILE THAT YOU STOLE.

I'LL LET YOU OFF IF YOU GIVE IT TO ME IMMEDIATELY.

YES,
THAT WAS... SOMETHING...
THAT I PICKED UP BY CHANCE DESU~

MIS-UNDER-STANDING... MISUNDER-STANDING DESU~
AMAKO-SAN.

PICKED... UP?
CRAIG-KUN...
YOU'RE SAYING SOMETHING YOU GOT A HOLD OF BY INTRUDING MY COMPUTER TERMINAL THROUGH A SECRET CODE WAS...
THIS ISN'T SOME SPY MOVIE...
.....
PAT
PAT
DON'T KID WITH ME.

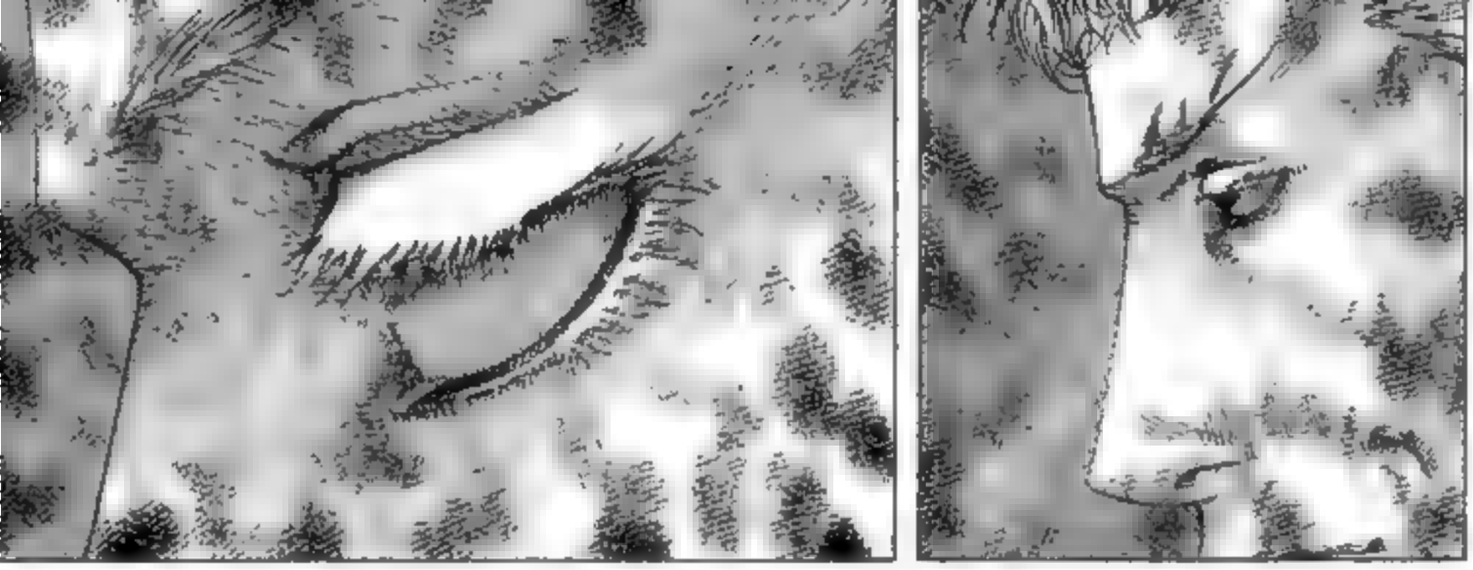
HE'S MINOWA-KUN FROM THE PRIVATE FUNERAL DIVISION OF THE TOKYO METROPOLI-TAN POLICE DEPART-MENT.
IF IT'S HIM, ANY PERSON CAN BECOME BURIED FROM EXISTENCE.

YUP.
ド
ス

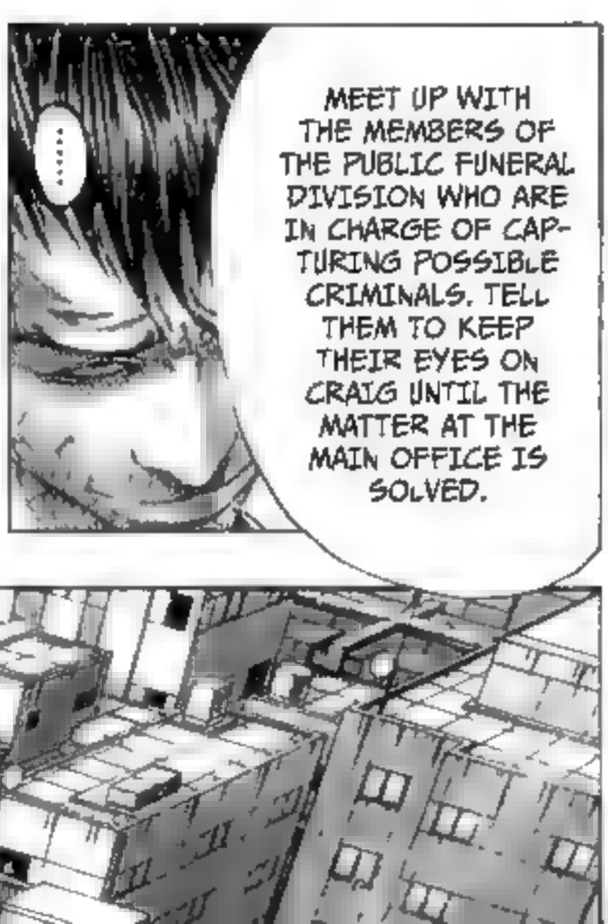
.....
BURIED...?

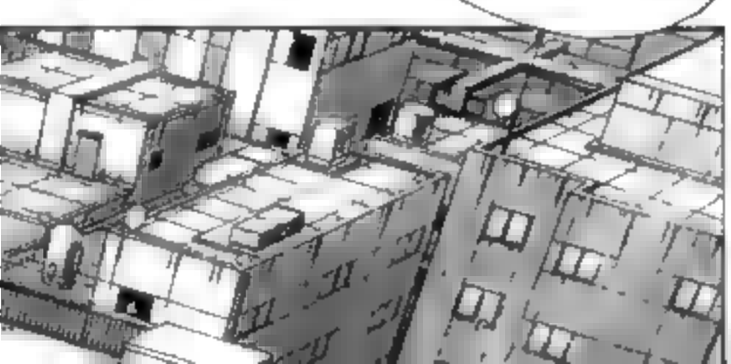
ANY-THING'S POSSIBLE. HOW DO YOU WANT IT, MR. PALE FACE?

CRE-MATED,
BURIED IN EARTH,
BURIED AT SEA,
BURIED IN THE SKY,



A TRIGGER TO BECOME FRIENDLY WITH YOU...
I INTENDED TO GIVE THIS BACK TO YOU FROM THE BEGIN-NING.
I ONLY WANTED A TRIG-GER.
HERE YOU GO. FUFU... DIDN'T I TELL YOU IT WAS A MISUNDER-STAND-ING?


.....
MEET UP WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FUNERAL DIVISION WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF CAP-TURING POSSIBLE CRIMINALS. TELL THEM TO KEEP THEIR EYES ON CRAIG UNTIL THE MATTER AT THE MAIN OFFICE IS SOLVED.



I HAVE TO GO TO THE MAIN OFFICE NOW. YOU ALSO COME WITH ME...
...THE MAN THERE... I CAN'T LET HIM LIVE... FOR NOW,

HMPH.
...MINOWA.

HEHEHE... REALLY,

KARL... TO FIND YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.. HEH... HEHEH...

WHAT A COINCI-DENCE.
EVEN THOUGH I WAS ONLY DOING THIS TO KILL TIME.

HA.. HAHA..
IT'S... IT'S JUST THAT IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE BEEN OUTSIDE.
KARL-SAN, ARE YOU... OKAY?
.....

NECK, NECK... ROUND AND ROUND...

...!!
SHIT.

!!
HNH... WHA, WHA, WHA?
HEY, LET'S GO.
.. OKAY.

USOGUI SIDE STORY

DEBT COLLECTOR YAKOU HIKOICHI

HIKOICHI-SAN?

DON'T YOU FEEL SOMETHING ODD.

AH!! MASATERU-SAN... I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU...

DON'T JUST SAY "I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU", I HAVE TALKED TO YOU SO MANY TIMES...

I WAS EVEN GOING TO BEAT YOU.

YOU WERE DAZED AND MUMBLING, WHAT'S GOING ON?

YOU GOT DEMENTIA OR WHAT?

...HIKOICHI-SAN...? ARE YOU LISTENING, HIKOICHI-SAN?

REFEREE: NUMBER 3, TOUYA MASATERU

BUT DID I REALLY SUCCESSFULLY STOP THAT ELEGANT AND STYLISH YOUNG MAN FROM DOING HIS FOOLISH DEED?

A HANDSOME AND TALENTED YOUNG MAN WAS SAVED BY MY VOICE JUST NOW... I HAVE A FEELING LIKE THAT.

YOUTH... IT'S ENVIABLE, BUT ALSO FOOLISH...

...

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T KNOW.

I'M SURE HE HAS DEMENTIA.

DON'T YOU THINK SO, MASATERU-SAN!!

MAYBE IT REALLY IS LIKE WHAT HE SAID, THERE'S PROBABLY ANOTHER FUTURE!! A HAPPIER FUTURE...

THERE MUST BE A GREAT MOTIVATION BEHIND THIS.

...

HUMPH...

HUH?

MORE IMPORTANTLY, DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING ODD?

THE COLORIZED PAGES THAT CAN ALWAYS BE SEEN ONCE YOU TURN THE COVER HAVE DISAPPEARED SOMEHOW.

LISTEN CAREFULLY YOU DEMENTIA GEEZER.

DIDN'T YOU REALIZE IT?

WHAT?

YOU KNOW NOTHING, MASATERU-SAN.

HAS 12 CHAPTERS.

THIS VOLUME THAT SHOULD HAVE 11 CHAPTERS LIKE OTHER VOLUMES...

THE PRICE OF PAPER... WHAT A SHAME.

THE NEXT VOLUME WON'T HAVE COLORIZED PAGES EITHER... THE INFLATION OF PRICES IS REAL.

TOO NAIVE ...

FUUUUCK!

FU-

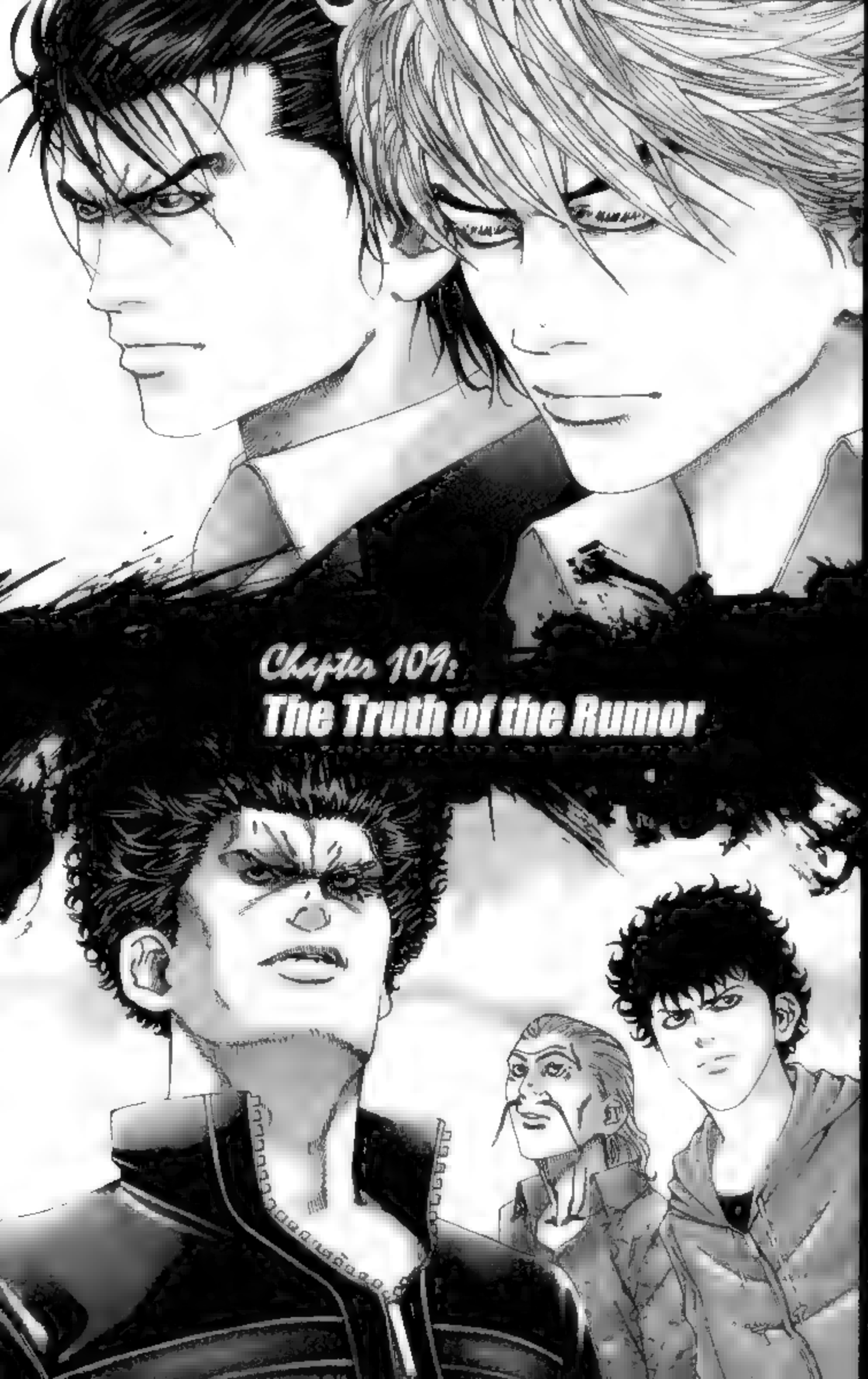
SHOULDN'T THEY GET RID OF THIS OMAKE MANGA FIRST!?

...

IS... IS THAT SO...?

IT INCREASED BY ONE CHAPTER... WHY DIDN'T I...

SO VOL.11 WILL TURN BACK TO...



Chapter 109: The Truth of the Rumor

...WOULD FEEL... VERY REAS- SURED.
.....

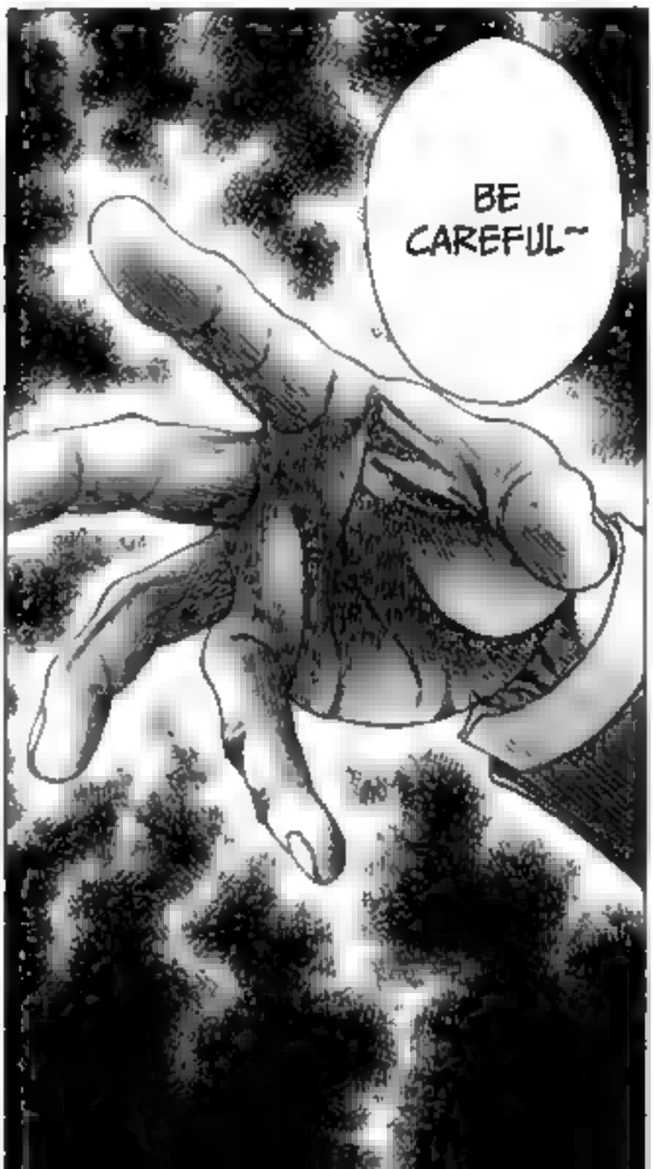
999 1月 18日
1998 2月 9
4月 2
8月
002 3
6
8
0
1月 7
6月 6
月 24
月 5
月 21
月 2
月 27
...HOW ABOUT IT, MADARAME BAKU- KUN?
IF YOU WERE TO TAKE OVER THIS JOB, I...
WELL- KNOWN AS THE RUMOURED USOGUI, AND A KAKEROU MEMBER AS WELL...

BAKU-NIICHAN...
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY,
A CUNNING BASTARD...
YOU'RE A BAD PERSON...
...WON'T LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF SOMEONE LIKE YOU!!
...UMM~

EH...? BAD PERSON, YOU SAY...
WHAT'D YA SAY, MARCO-KUN?

THAT GOD OF DEATH IS TRYING TO MANIPULATE YOU WITH KIND WORDS FOR HIS OWN SATIS-FACTION.

THAT'S NOT TRUE~
MARCO-KUN~ YOU'RE BEING DECEIVED.


BE CAREFUL~

THE REAL BAD PERSON IS...
...THAT GUY.

OWIE.

HOO~ WELL, AREN'T YOU UNFRIEND-DLY...

THE REASON YOU SEE BAKU-NIICHAN AS A BAD PERSON IS BECA-USE...
.....

...BAKU-NIICHAN IS A BAD PERSON?

P-PEOPLE ARE MIRRORS THAT REFLECT YOU... SO...

SAYING!!
YOU ARE A BAD PERSON! THAT WOULD BE WHAT YOU'RE...

MARCO-KUN WHO SAID THAT WE WERE BAD PEOPLE WOULD ALSO BE A BAD PERSON.
AND
DOESN'T THAT MEAN BAKJ-NIICHAN IS A BAD PERSON, AFTER ALL?
...?
...THEN,

...n the group of bad people.
Ye Yeah.
Baku-nichan is also
TIME
TIME?

!
OH,
WHHH...
PEOPLE ARE MIRRORS THAT REFLECT YOU... RIGHT?

DO I HAVE THE INTENTION TO STALL FOR TIME WITH YOU.
THE MONEY'S SAFETY IS ENSURED. IF YOJ'RE NOT GOING TO PLAY A GAME WITH ME, WE'LL BE LEAVING NOW.
BESIDES,

Bu-But
there are different kinds of bad people and-
WELL— WELL— IT'S ALL RIGHT, MAA-KUN.
I AM A BAD PERSON, BUT... IT'S FINE. .
I DON'T HAVE THE INTENTIONS TO GO ALONG WITH THAT STORY, NOR..

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU STALL FOR TIME,
I DON'T THINK THE CARD YOU'RE WAITING FOR IS GOING TO COME.

.....
.....
.....

be-
beep

beep

ALL DEPR-ESSED—
What a horrible timing.
MAKES ME FEEL...
HA—

.....
.. YOU GUYS JUST DIE...

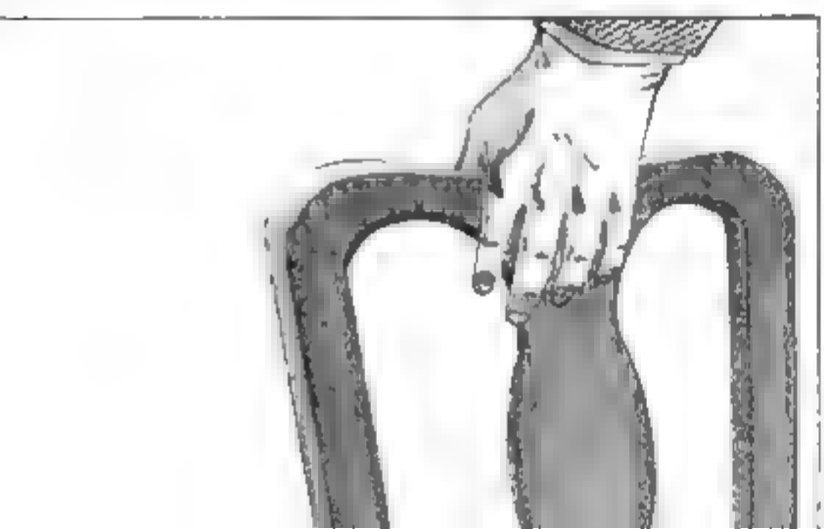
AND OF COURSE, THE DINNER FOR TODAY WILL ALSO BE PAID FOR SEPARATELY BY US... NOW.
TALK ABOUT IT MORE OUTSIDE..
ON TOP OF THAT, THE AMERICAN DISAPPEARED...
LET US.
.....
USOGUI'S COMPANION, KAJI, WAS NOT CAPTURED... THEY DISAPPEARED AFTER DESTROYING THE VEHICLES THAT WERE CHASING THEM...
I THINK...
NOW.
THEY'RE NOT HERE.

I, KADOKURA YUJDAI, AS A KAKEROU REFEREE, PRESIDED OVER THE FIRST GAMBLE, BUT...
WE MAY HAVE TO LISTEN TO WHAT BAKU-NIICHAN'S TELLING US TO DO—
IF IT IS FINE WITH YOU, THE GAME BETWEEN YOU TWO - INCLUDING THE NEGOTIATIONS - WOULD YOU ALLOW ME TO PRESIDE OVER IT AS REFEREE?
AMAKO-SAMA.

ALSO, WHAT KIND OF GAME ARE YOU TWO THINKING OF PLAYING?

HMMM...I WONDER—

PLAYING LABYRINTH AGAIN...
...WOULD BE A BIT TOO MUCH, YOU KNOW—



NOD

YOU FINALLY.. FEEL LIKE PLAYING A GAME..

NOW THAT BOTH OF YOU HAVE TAKEN A SEAT AT THE GAME TABLE,
PLEASE LISTEN TO MY SUGGESTION. IT'S ABOUT THE GAME.

WELL, I CAN'T GET ALONG WITH YOU AFTER ALL..

TOKYO
METROPOLITAN POLICE
DEPARTMENT
...WAS THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, WHICH FOUNDER POLICE SUPERINTENDENT KAWAJI TOSHIYOSHI DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO CREATE.
WHAT HAD DIRECT AUTHORITY OVER THE ONCE IMMENSELY INFLUENTIAL HOME MINISTRY,
ALTHOUGH THIS IS A RUMOR,
AFTER WORLD WAR II, THE HOME MINISTRY WAS ABOLISHED, AND THE POLICE SYSTEM WAS EXPECTED TO CHANGE.
AND IN 1954, THE POLICE LAW WAS PROMULGATED WHICH ESTABLISHED THE CURRENT TOKYO METROPOLITAN POPLICE DEARTMENT

IN 1890, DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CURRENT TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING, UNDER-GROUND...
UNDERGROUND, WHERE WE CURRENTLY ARE... I HEARD THAT...

A MODEL OF THE REAL LABYRINTH, A LIFE-SIZED LABYRINTH,
...WAS BUILT SECRETLY AS A SYMBOL OF ORDER.

IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT REALLY EXISTS...
I THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD ADD SOME SPICE TO THIS GAME...
IN REALITY, THE AUTHEN-TICITY OF THIS RUMOR... DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW, AMAKO-SAMA?

AFTER DOING SUCH A THING...? IN JAPAN~
THERE'S APPARENTLY A PROVERB, "TOUCH AND THREE THOUSAND"~ TO PUT IT SIMPLY...
HA HA HA, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING...
.....
!

YOU HAVE TOUCHED THE WRATH OF THE GOD THAT I AM
WHEN YOU'RE ONLY MONKEYS
IF YOU DON'T TOUCH THE GOD, YOU WON'T BE CURSED. BUT UNFORTU-NATELY,
DIE YOBBO!

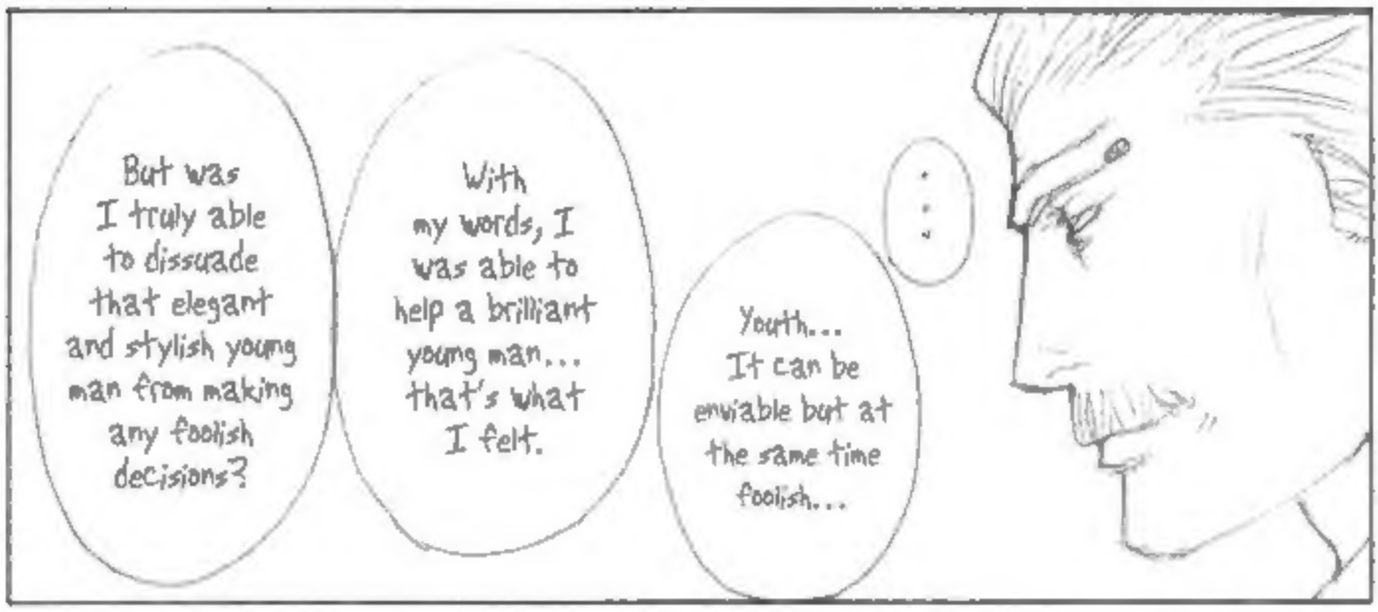
GOD?
DON'T YOU ACTUALLY MEAN A FILTHY CAT?

The Debt Collector

USOGUI EXTRA

Yakou Hikoichi

I can even reach my hand to you from here.
What do you mean you didn't notice. I tried to talk to you multiple times...
Oh!! Masateru-san... I didn't notice you there...
You were muttering to yourself while looking off to the distance. What seems to be the problem?
Perhaps you're beginning to dumb down.


But was I truly able to dissuade that elegant and stylish young man from making any foolish decisions?
With my words, I was able to help a brilliant young man... that's what I felt.
...
Youth... It can be enviable but at the same time foolish...

In a nutshell, I don't know.
He's definitely dumbing down
Don't you think so, Masatera-san?
Just like he said, was there a different future?!! Maybe there existed a happier future...

There must be some great force moving.
...
Heh...

More importantly, don't you think it's strange?
Huh?
Until now, there was always a color page when you opened the cover page. But for some reason, it has disappeared.
Listen well, dumb old man.

Did you really not notice anything?
WHA-
You don't know anything, Masateru-san.

was increased to 12 chapters this time.
Even though this comic that usually has 11 chapters,

...of paper... it's a pity.
There won't be a color page for the next one, either... It got too high, the cost, you know...
You're too naive...
FUCK—
FU-
THEY SHOULD'VE STOPPED THIS CORNER INSTEAD.

...
THAT, THAT WAS WHAT HAPPEN-ED...
BUT FROM VOLUME 11- THERE WILL AGAIN BE...
TO THINK IT WAS INCREASED BY A CHAPTER INSTEAD. I MADE... A BLUNDER...

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